

NAMIBIA - GENERAL

1994

Judge to preside at Lubowski inquest

CT 20/11/94 (22)

WINDHOEK. — The long-awaited inquest into the 1989 assassination of Swapo lawyer Mr Anton Lubowski has been transferred to the Namibian High Court at the request of the activist's family.

Mr Lubowski, a rising star in the Swapo hierarchy, was shot outside his home on September 12, 1989 by unidentified assassins.

No date has been set for the inquest.

Soon after Mr Lubowski's murder, Irishman Mr Donald Acheson, described as a mercenary employed by South Africa's clandestine Civil Cooperation Bureau, was arrested and detained for several months in connection with the killing.

He was released when Namibian authorities failed to extradite certain CCB operatives from South Africa to stand trial. — Sapa

Namibia not keen to pay for Bay

WINDHOEK. — Namibia does not expect to pay for assets acquired when Walvis Bay is transferred to Windhoek rule next month.

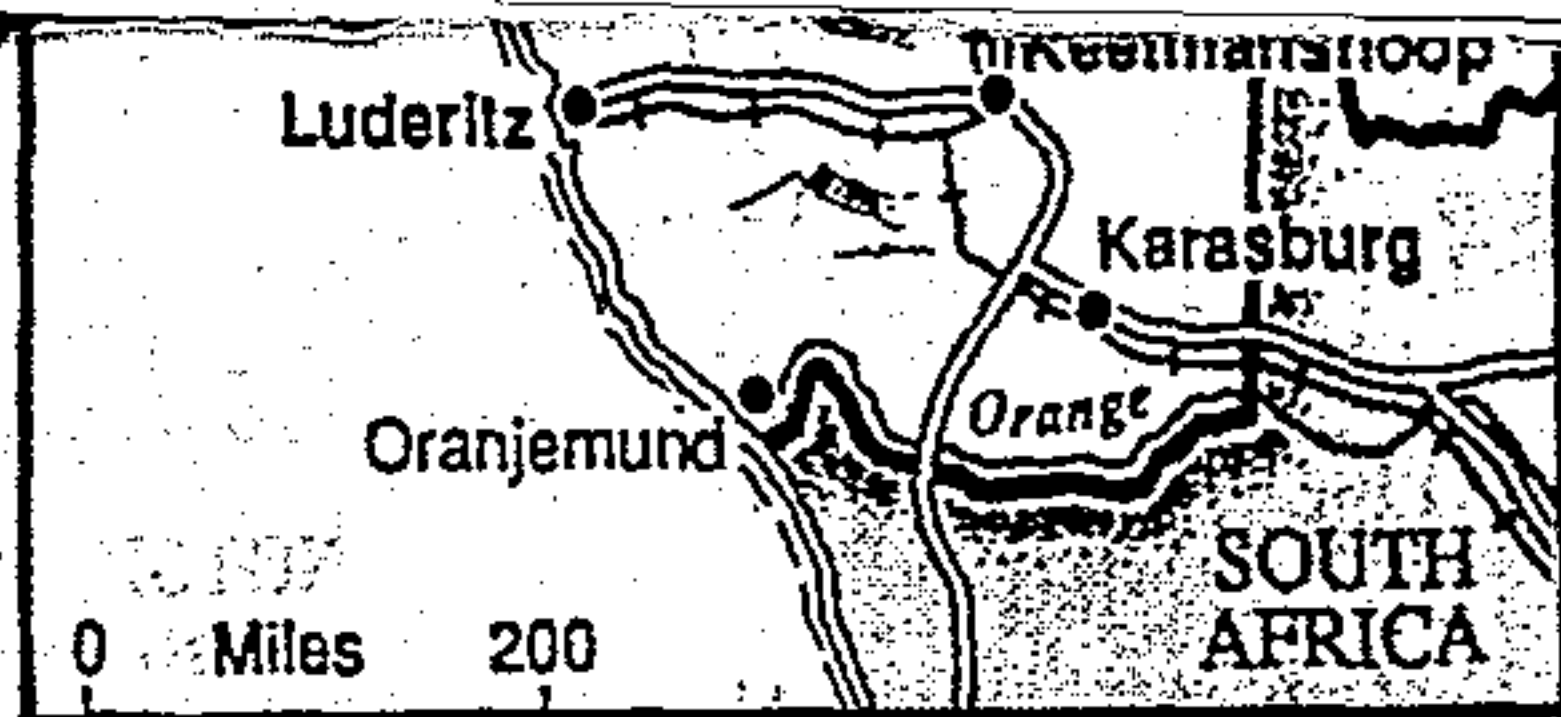
"No way," said Finance Minister Mr Gert Hanekom yesterday.

"We are not particularly keen on that subject and expect not to be paying," added Foreign Affairs Minister Mr Theo Ben-Gurirab.

Both had just returned from a top-

level meeting with South African ministers, called to review progress made in the transition. Both sides felt progress was being made, Mr Ben-Gurirab said.

(221) CT22/1/94
It is understood two key players in the enclave, Portnet and Eskom, are pushing for more than R100 million compensation when they hand the Walvis Bay harbour and power infrastructure to Namibia. Sapa



DISPUTED TERRITORY: The map shows Walvis Bay as South African territory, in the middle of the Namibian coastline between South Africa and Angola.

Freedom of Walvis Bay group plans fight to the end to remain part of SA

SHARON SOROUR, Staff Reporter

WALVIS BAY. — Residents of Walvis Bay, who are backing a last-ditch bid to resist the handover of the enclave to Namibia have pinned their hopes on forming their own republic.

But, at an emotional Freedom for Walvis Bay meeting, the last South African MP to represent the town, Nationalist Christo de Jager, rejected the republican idea as unrealistic.

Mr De Jager, invited to the meeting to justify the government's "hasty" handover of the harbour settlement without consulting the inhabitants, was booed several times.

He told the audience of about 150 angry residents that the handover was inevitable.

Mr De Jager said: "We are in the practical position of being confronted with a new government in South Africa in the near future, which, in any case, would have given Walvis Bay back to Namibia.

"It makes one think that it is better that the handover is handled by the present government, rather than the new one."

Mr De Jager said he believed the handover had to take place now "however difficult it may be".

However, Freedom for Walvis Bay spokesman Dr Paul van Staden said it was inexcusable that the people of Walvis Bay had not been consulted about the future of their town.

He said: "Why were we not given an opportunity to decide our own future? Do we not have the same rights as other citizens? Why can't we choose?"

Dr Van Staden said Walvis Bay had never been part of Namibia and the country had no right to it.

Mr Bertholdt Bahr, who challenged the handover in the Cape Supreme Court last month, said the grounds for self-determination were based on international law.

Mr Bahr said: "We want a free state with harbour facilities that are open to the whole world. South Africa gave us away, but no one can just come and take us."

Mr Bahr said the Freedom for Walvis Bay group was hoping to contest the failed Supreme Court bid in the Appeal Court and the World Court at Den Haag in the Netherlands.

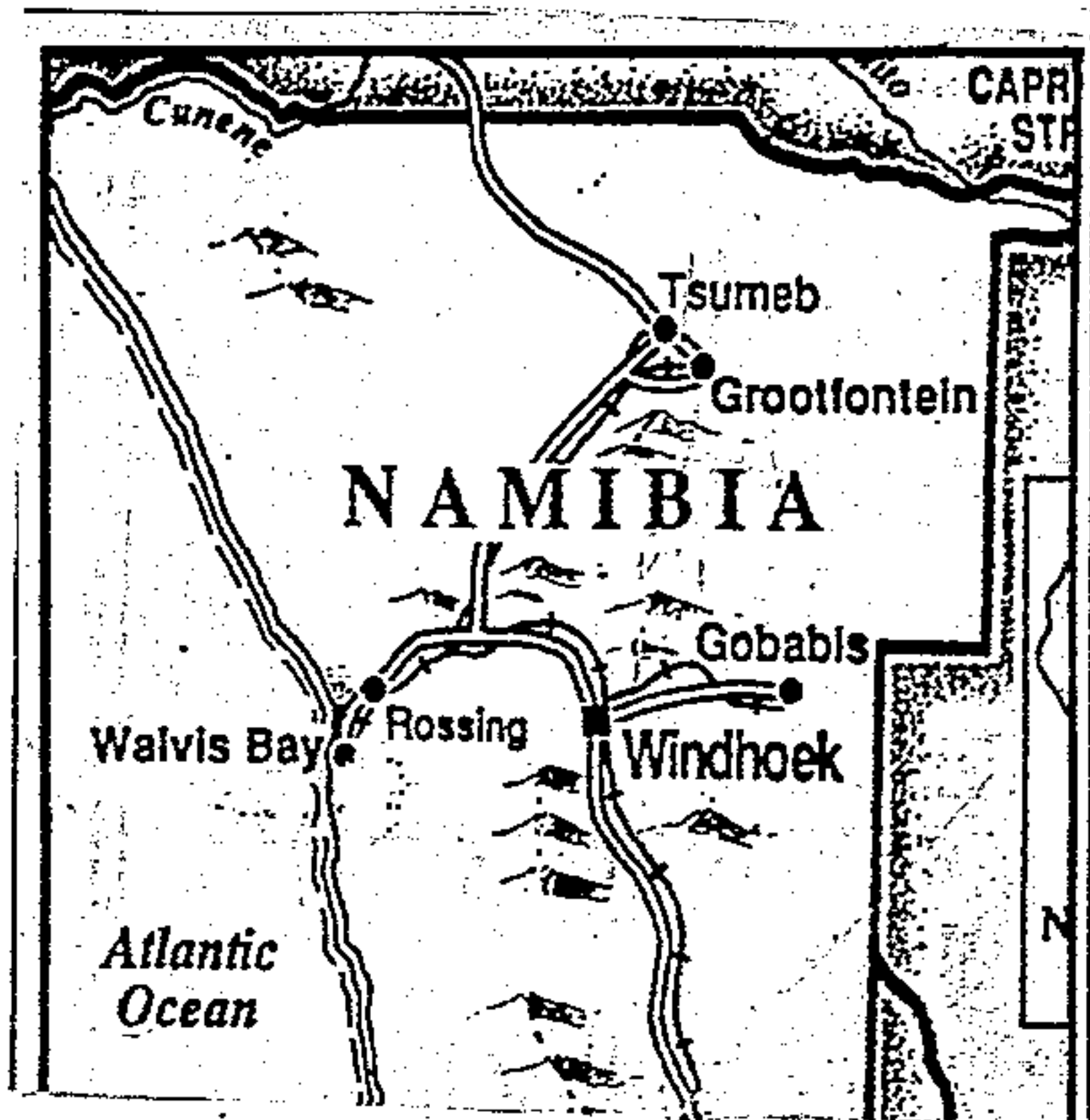
"Namibia is a Third World country ... Walvis Bay is the last piece in Africa with an illiteracy rate of zero and we could be a First World country," said Mr Bahr.

Mr De Jager said the government had been unable to stop the decision to hand over Walvis Bay, taken by the negotiating council at Kempton Park last year, as it was the only party which was opposed to it.

● Mayor Bryce Edwards and other councillors, who were also invited to answer to the people as to why they "gave" Walvis Bay away, did not attend the meeting.

7/2/94

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Namibia is the new magnet for foreign investors

ET 8/2/94 (221A)

WASHINGTON — Regardless of South Africa's rôle, the region's economic development is increasing. After being colonised by South Africa for 70 years, Namibia retains a relatively sophisticated network of roads and in some respects is viewed as more politically stable than South Africa itself.

South Africa is about to return a major port, Walvis Bay, to Namibian control.



The government is deciding whether to refurbish it or build another port, said Neville Gertze, first secretary at Namibia's embassy in Washington.

Either way, Gertze said, Namibia is a better investment for foreigners than its former ruler.

"One thing we see is still an element of instability in South Africa," Gertze said.

JOHN NKOMO: "We're doing everything possible to improve Zimbabwe's investment climate."

"We are able to provide a better haven for world investment."

Namibia also is building two important roads, the Trans-Caprivi Highway and the Trans-Kalahari Highway, which will vastly accelerate commerce by allowing heavy trailers convenient access to Botswana and other points east. The roads should be completed by 1996.

Namibia already is benefiting from increased investment by Taiwan, Japan, the United States, Germany, Britain and Israel.

Though some ventures are small and tentative, they reflect an enterprising spirit that anticipates a boom.





the press

Executive Council's order and stability to abolish the control of the Internal Security Act at the multi-Kempton Park, led by the South African sub-council was to be effective in being responsible for that the level of security in the country is climbing. We believe that the provincial council has effectively South African practice of violat-

Continued: "First used Section 29 as no evidence that it is effective in dealing with terrorism. This law to detain and torture them and without charge. The long detention to be very shocking that the council — some of the Section 29 — the very police officers offered and give them continue causing

will continue to have done in the past. And the TEC that members will share the wrongs emanating from Section 29."

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Taiwan, Japan, the United States, Germany, Britain and Israel.

Though some ventures are small and tentative, they reflect an enterprising spirit that anticipates a boom.

Namibia is luring foreign investors with tax incentives and land prices of less than R2 a hectare.

Hydro-electric

In Zimbabwe, the government has liberalised foreign investment policies, allowing overseas businesses to repatriate 50% of their profits, up from 35%.

It also is building hydro-electric dams to lessen its dependence on South African power, installing a fibre optic telephone network and assuring foreign interests that their businesses will never be nationalised.

"We're doing everything possible to improve the investment climate," John Nkomo, Minister of Public Service, labour and social welfare, said.

Spriggs, the investment analyst, said Zimbabwe was attracting growing interest because it has an intact infrastructure left over from British colonial rule, the economy is growing and inflation remains relatively low.

The investments include a R600-million platinum mining operation developed by two Australian firms, DHP and Delta Gold. DHP is a leading natural resources concern in Australia, with interests in steel, oil and mining.

Interest

When the mine is fully operational in two years, it will be the first platinum mine outside South Africa and the biggest mine in Zimbabwe, Spriggs said.

Some southern African countries are likely to lag because of internal political problems, notably in Mozambique and Angola, where protracted civil conflicts show little sign of resolution.

"The region's got quite a mixed bag," Spriggs said. "But people are constantly looking for new markets. The new markets in Africa will attract new interest."

For now, most big American companies venturing into the region are going to South Africa first.

In January, for example, Honeywell, the big electronic controls maker, re-established a South African subsidiary.

Opportunity

Caterpillar, of Peoria, Illinois, has a distribution centre in South Africa that supplies parts to points throughout Africa's southern half.

Though the construction equipment maker's operation has lost money, spokesman Marsha Hausser said Caterpillar was staying put.

"We want to be where our customers are, where our potential customers are. Caterpillar would like the opportunity to be there," Hausser said. "That's the attractiveness of investing anywhere." — Sapa-AP

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Talks on Walvis

(221) ARG 9/2/94
WINDHOEK. Namibia's Minister of Transport Marco Hausiku is to meet his South African counterpart in Pretoria today to try and resolve an impasse over the transfer of Walvis Bay to Namibia.

South Africa has agreed to transfer the port and the 12 Guano islands to Namibia at midnight on February 28, but the two sides are deadlocked over demands by two South African parastatal companies for R100 million in compensation for the transfer of their assets to Namibia. — Sapa-AFP.

BY SHAUN JOHNSON
POLITICAL EDITOR

Cape Town — South African and Namibian negotiators have struck a hitch over the scheduled integration of the Walvis Bay enclave into Namibia on February 28.

And the problem is cash, not politics.

In an interview with The Star, Namibian Foreign Minister Theo-Ben Gurirab revealed that while the principle of ceding full control of Walvis Bay

Who will pay for Walvis Bay?

Star

15/2/94

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to Windhoek had been agreed upon with his South African counterpart Pk Botha, there was no agreement about what would happen to vested interests and fixed assets in the enclave — and more specifically whether Namibia would have to pay for them.

Gurirab's government insists that State-owned and parasta-

tal fixed assets running to tens of millions of rands should be handed over to Namibia free of charge.

This includes Portnet facilities, transport infrastructure, Eskom subsidiaries, housing, and military installations at the Rookkop base.

South African negotiators counter that they were deve-

loped with their taxpayers' money, and should therefore come with a price tag, to be negotiated bilaterally.

"We are saying that, on the principle of state succession, we as the successor state should take over," the Namibian foreign minister said.

"We are basically sticking to the position that we don't

have to pay anything. Why should we pay colonialism's debts? Why should we pay for what is ours?"

He said Windhoek's stance enjoyed the support of a majority of parties on the Transitional Executive Council, which have been lobbied extensively by Namibia in recent months.

He said, however, that the dispute did not mean the Feb-

ruary 28 "D-Day" should be overshoot, or that Namibia would have to wait for the installation of a new government in South Africa before regaining Walvis Bay.

Technical teams were working on the problem, he said, and after a "corridor chat" with Pk Botha in Ivory Coast recently, he expected a further meeting at ministerial level.

Gurirab is attending the International Press Institute conference. He is due to return to Windhoek tonight.

Cabinet set to discuss Walvis Bay

Star 16/2/94

■ BY KAIZER NYATSUMBA
POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

President de Klerk's Cabinet will today discuss the Namibian government's insistence that State-owned and parastatal fixed assets in the Walvis Bay enclave should be handed to Namibia free of charge. (221)

A spokesman for Regional and Land Affairs Minister Andre Fourie said on Monday that Fourie had taken note of Namibian Foreign Affairs Minister Theo-Ben Gurirab's views, and the Cabinet would discuss the issue at its meeting today.

Regional and Land Affairs Ministry spokesman Helmut Schlenter said Fourie had confirmed that negotiations on the vexatious issue were continuing between the two governments.

In an interview with The Star in Cape Town, Gurirab revealed that while the principle of ceding full control of Walvis Bay to Windhoek had been agreed upon with South Africa, agreement had yet to be reached on what would happen to vested interests and fixed assets in the enclave.

The main hitch, Gurirab said, was whether Namibia would have to pay for these assets, which include Portnet facilities, transport infrastructure, Eskom subsidiaries, housing and military installations.

Gurirab said fixed assets running to tens of millions of rands would have to be handed over to Namibia free of charge.

SADF hands over two bases

By DAN SIMON

TWO SA Defence Force bases in Walvis Bay were ceded to the Namibian Defence Force (NDF) and the Namibian Directorate of Civil Aviation (NDCA) yesterday.

Defence Minister Mr Kobie Coetsee and his Namibian counterpart Mr Peter Mweshihange

formally signed an international agreement effectively transferring 2 SA Infantry Base and the Rooikop Air Force Base from the SADF to the NDF and the NDCA.

The agreement includes clauses for mutual co-operation in security and humanitarian assistance as well as overflying rights for South Africa.

221 ET 18/2/94
It was agreed that members of the NDF and the NDCA will be stationed forthwith at the two bases but the SADF will maintain the bases until February 28 when they will be ceremoniously handed over.

The SADF will donate equipment worth about R6m to the NDF and the NDCA.

Walvis military base signing

CAPE TOWN — An international agreement to transfer the SA military base and Rooikop airport at Walvis Bay to the Namibian government at the end of February was signed yesterday.

The agreement, which includes the donation and transfer of equipment valued at R6,5m, was signed by SA Defence Minister Kobie Coetsee and Namibian Defence Minister Peter Mwashihange. (22)

Coetsee said the agreement heralded a new era of security co-operation. Mwashihange said the signing vindicated the belief that peaceful co-existence could work when those involved were committed.

All functions and duties at the military base and Rooikop airport will be handed over by the SADF to the Namibian Defence Force (NDF) and to the Directorate Civil Aviation on February 28.

It was specifically agreed that the SADF

would:

- Leave shooting range boundaries and markers intact;
- Brief and train appointed members of the NDF in the protection, use and application of the shooting range;
- Hand over safety templates to the NDF;
- Donate and transfer to the NDF all furniture, kitchen equipment, garden tools, camping equipment, linen and labour-saving utensils in present use at the base and valued at about R440 000;
- Transfer telecommunications equipment at the command and control centre at the base, valued at about R510 000;
- Transfer all flying-related equipment and existing aids rendering the airport international, valued at R5,5m.

Namibia has granted SA military aircraft overflight and landing rights for humanitarian missions. — Sapa.

Star 19/2/94

Walvis deadlock broken

JONATHON REES

WINDHOEK — Namibia would inherit R84 million of assets in Walvis Bay without payment, but would take over the liabilities of South African parastatals in the enclave.

In a breakthrough agreement reached yesterday at a meeting here, a key point of contention between the two countries appears to have been solved just 10 days before the South African flag is lowered in Walvis Bay for the last time.

It was decided that technical committees should determine the value of the liabilities, with arbitration to be considered in the event of a deadlock.

"This is a helluva breakthrough," said South African Minister of Regional and Land Affairs Andre Fourie.

In terms of the agreement, Namibia

inherits R84 million of harbour assets from Portnet when it takes over at Walvis Bay, one of three profitable ports in South Africa. In return, it accepts responsibility for liabilities estimated by Portnet to total about R60 million. (221)

Negotiations were to continue over the future of a R6-million synchrolift used at the Walvis Bay drydock to raise ships from the water, Fourie said.

Namibia had also agreed to pay Telkom about R4,5 million when it took over Walvis Bay at midnight on February 28.

Still in dispute was the Paratus power station, built by Swawek before independence while the Namibian power utility was still owned by South Africa's Industrial Development Corporation. It now belongs to Eskom, which wants Namibia to buy it for a depreciated R4,8 million. — Sapa.

24/2/84

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night," he said.

What appears to have actually happened at the South African constitutional negotiations at the World Trade Centre at Kempton Park is that Pretoria's plans for a leisurely handover of Walvis Bay were scuppered by the PAC and ANC. Both insisted that the handover take place before the South African election on April 27 and were strongly backed by the Namibian government.

Under this pressure, the Government agreed to a handover before the election. What it got in return, if anything, is uncertain, but the decision left a lot of loose ends flapping in the political winds and a lot of people uncertain and unhappy in Walvis Bay.

Even Mr Stefan Hrywniak, the chairman of the 150-member Chamber of Commerce and Industry, who fully supports the handover, says the South African Government bungled the negotiations.

Outstanding issues

"We are now sitting at five-minutes-to-twelve and virtually none of the outstanding issues have been resolved," he said last week. By the week's end, it was announced that agreement had been reached on the transfer of some — but not all — of the millions of rands of assets involved.

According to Von Hirschberg, the Act passed by the South African Parliament providing for the handover to be completed by March 1 "does not purport to deal with everything. It makes provision for dealing with outstanding issues separately. All the agreements do not have to be concluded by the date of transfer. In fact the majority will not be ready for signature by the handover date".

It was this uncertainty that had many people in Walvis Bay fuming as the handover came closer. What would happen to the 300-odd civil servants, many of whom have spent a lifetime in the enclave, was uncertain.

Many small businessmen still do not know exactly what the implications of the transition to a different system of taxation will mean for them. Schools have been given until the end of this year to change over to a new system.

One of the thorny outstanding issues was the transfer of assets belonging to the Post Office, Telkom, Portnet and Eskom. According to Von Hirschberg, these are commercial companies run on business lines and they wanted compensation of more than R100 million for both movable and immovable assets.

The Namibian government, however, saw them as part of the South African Government assets which should therefore be handed over in the same way as the hospital, the police station, the municipal buildings and prison.

Negotiations are continuing down to the wire. Late last week Regional and Land Affairs Minister Andre Fourie announced that agreement had been reached in principle on the exchange of assets and liabilities. Technical committees will try to reach agreement on the exact amounts involved but if they fail the matter will go to arbitration.

Dual citizenship is outlawed in Namibia, so many South Africans who have lived in Walvis Bay all their lives now have to decide to either keep their South African citizenship and apply for permanent residence in the town of their birth or to forfeit their South African citizenship in favour of Namibian citizenship.

Mr Berthold Bahr, chairman of the Freedom for Walvis Bay movement, was determined to wage his fight to stop the incorporation right up to the last minute. He and 2 000 of his supporters signed a petition in which they demanded that the transfer be terminated.

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Walvis Bay — for a lot of people it remains one big hangover.

He said the residents of Walvis Bay had been denied their right to self-determination and accused South Africa of committing a "flagrant breach of trust" and of violating their human rights.

However, Bahr himself cannot stomach staying on in a Walvis Bay that is governed by Namibia. He plans to move his businesses to South Africa.

"South Africa will always be better off than the rest of Africa." He said.

Bahr admits that many of his supporters are starting to accept the changeover as a *fait accompli* and something they must learn to live with.

The border check-points on the road to Swakopmund no longer exist, the Namibian dollar is freely accepted in Walvis Bay, the fishing industry is already controlled by the Namibian government, and many former South African citizens have applied for Namibian citizenship.

Since the announcement that Walvis Bay would become a part of Namibia, real estate prices have sky-rocketed. Everywhere in the town building activities testify to the confidence in the future of the port.

Hrywniak believes Walvis Bay has an extremely rosy future.

"Once we become linked with Botswana, Zambia and Zimbabwe through the completion of the Trans-Kalahari

and the Trans-Caprivi highways, the potential for Walvis Bay will be enormous," he said.

Grobbelaar shares Hrywniak's enthusiasm.

"We are actually very excited about the future," he said. "The Namibian government is investigating the possibility of establishing a free port and there are plans to transform the former South African Air Force base, Rooikop, into an international airport. We will be the only efficiently operating port on the west coast of Africa. Our ship repairs alone can earn Walvis industries millions every year."

The enclave also promises to become a more important tourist destination when the airport and the highways linking Walvis Bay with the outside world are completed. Hotels and other tourist facilities are being planned to make it possible for visitors to enjoy the unique desert environment, the long coastline and Walvis Bay's large lagoon and nature park, with its more than 31 species of birds, including many thousands of flamingos.

Despite the optimism, uncertainty over exactly what the changeover means will continue for some time. For many Walvis Bay residents, the closing of the South African chapter will mean little more than a few festivities, the arrival of many strangers and — for many the most devastating change — the end of South Africa's TV 1 transmissions.

For many Walvis Bay residents, the closing of the South African chapter will mean little more than a few festivities, the arrival of many strangers and — for many the most devastating change — the end of South Africa's TV 1 transmissions

NEWS FEATURE *Hasty handover of Walvis Bay has left many loose ends*

The 'child' SA abandoned

Sowetan 24/2/94

2521

■ **BUNGLE** ANC and

PAC scuppered handover.

By Hans-Peter Bakker, Sowetan Africa News Service

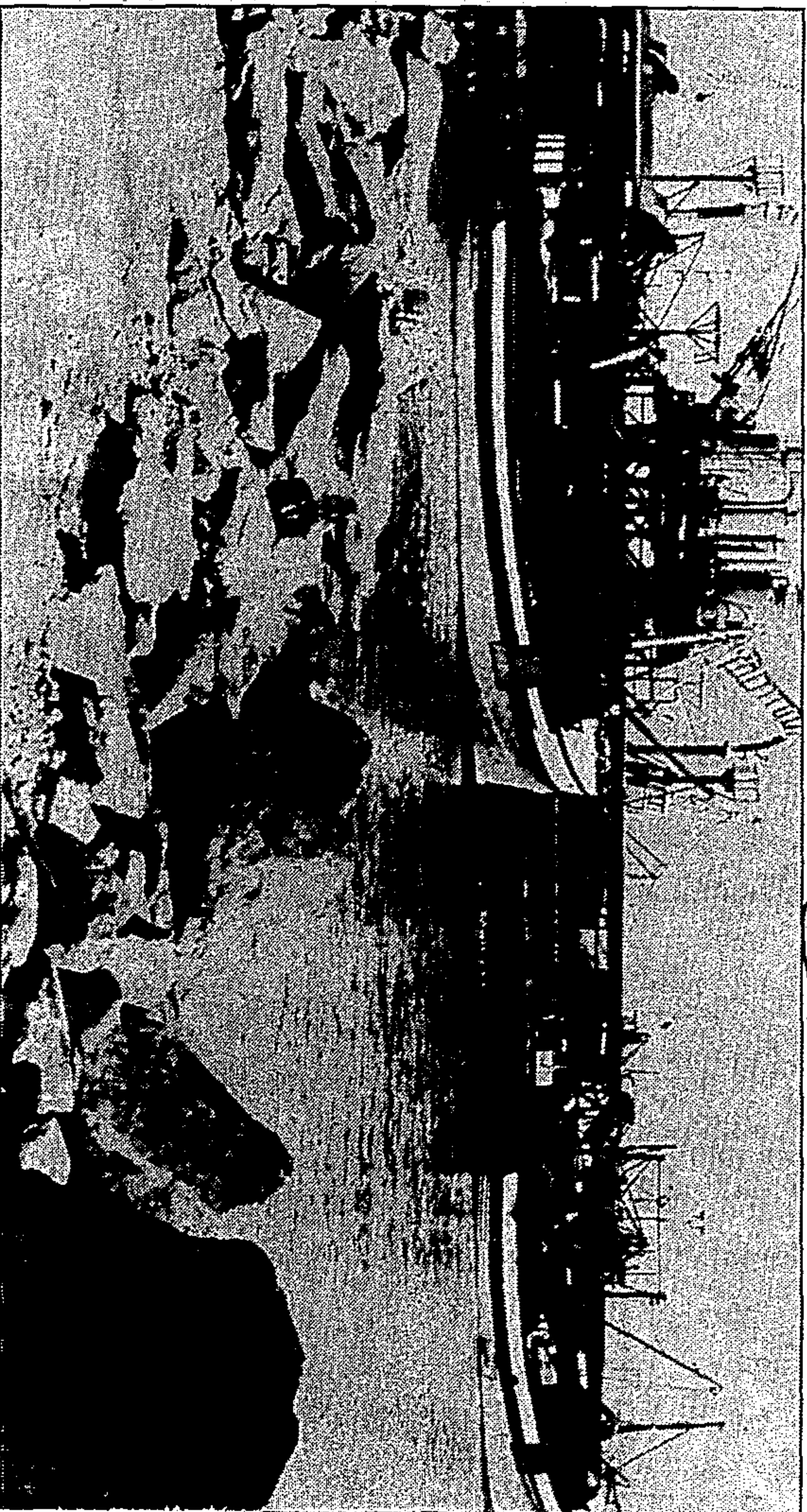
WALVIS BAY — At midnight on Monday Walvis Bay will cease to be a far-off corner of the Cape Province and become part of Namibia. But while most of the 36 000 people living in the South African enclave accept or even welcome its handover to Namibia, many are upset about the way it was done.

People of all races, ranging from those who opposed the handover to those who supported it, accuse South Africa of doing it badly.

"This is not how you treat your children," says Mr Willem Grobbelaar, town councillor and chairman of the Afrikaanse Sakekamer in Walvis Bay. "We have been loyal citizens. We paid our taxes and many of us have long supported the South African government. You don't one day just chase your children away and forget about them."

South Africa's representative in Walvis Bay, Mr Carl von Hirschberg, admits that the decision to hand over the port was taken without full consultation.

"The Government was caught up by the developments in Kempton Park at the time, and things escalated over-



ISD deployed in Walvis Bay

CF25/2/94 (221)

Staff Reporter

POLICE yesterday deployed 100 internal stability division members in Walvis Bay — which on Monday will be handed over to Namibia — to help local police quell a looting rampage at a local hostel.

Lieutenant-General Adriaan de la Rosa, the national commander of the ISD, confirmed yesterday that 100 members of Pretoria's Unit 19 were sent to the Walvis Bay enclave in response to violence there on Wednesday night.

According to Walvis Bay district commissioner Colonel Frik Conradie yesterday, about 1 000 people looted the Kuisebmond hostel after security guards there refused to let them into the hostel complex.

Col Conradie confirmed that the crowd then broke into the complex and looted storage rooms and a mill.

About eight tons of maize meal, crab worth R56 000, thousands of litres of ice-cream, 12 tons of fish and 388 beef carcasses, as well as R15 000 in cash and a .38 Special revolver, were taken by the crowd.

Col Conradie said that no arrests had yet been made because between 3 000 and 5 000 people lived at the hostel.

He said the SAP were "working in co-operation with the Namibian police" in the investigation.

Col Conradie said calm had been restored and the area was "completely peaceful". Police were patrolling, however.

Asked why the police were deploying the Pretoria ISD members in Walvis Bay, Gen De la Rosa said: "Until Monday, we are still responsible for the area."

The battles over the bounty of Walvis Bay

WJM 25/2-3/394 (221)

Graham Hopwood

THOUSANDS of Namibians and hundreds of dignitaries are expected to converge on the port town of Walvis Bay this weekend to celebrate the enclave's return to Namibia after 116 years of foreign rule — first under colonial Britain, then South Africa.

Four days of festivities will climax on Monday when Namibian world champion sprinter Frankie Fredericks will enter the Jan Wilken rugby stadium to light a unity flame at the stroke of midnight. Minutes later the South African flag will come down and the Namibian colours will be raised.

There to witness the moment will be African leaders such as Jerry Rawlings of Ghana, Robert Mugabe of Zimbabwe and Ali Mwinyi of Tanzania. But missing from the line-up will be ANC president Nelson Mandela and President FW de Klerk.

The last time De Klerk was in Namibia for a similar ceremony — at independence in 1990 — he had tears streaming down his face as the South African flag was lowered. This time, he's sending Justice Minister Kobie Coetsee to do any crying required.

Mandela will be on the campaign trail in the Northern Cape and the ANC is sending a delegation headed by foreign affairs chief Thabo Mbeki. Many Namibians are upset that Mandela will not be there.

Namibia had hoped to resolve the

thorny issue of state assets at Walvis Bay before Monday's handover. But most of the key issues remain deadlocked, with South African parastatals demanding compensation totalling over R100-million.

The issues are complicated — for example, Portnet claims Namibia owes it R66,4-million for liabilities the port has undertaken. Namibia meanwhile claims the port has been making a profit for the past 30 years and liabilities taken out in its name were used to fund other parts of the South African transport network. In fact, Namibia says South Africa owes Windhoek R33-million as the port's profits went to SA Harbours and Railways and its successors.

A row is on the boil between Telecom Namibia and Telkom SA over R20-million telecommunications assets. Eskom is demanding that Namibian power parastatal Swawek pay R23-million for a back-up power station at Walvis Bay.

There is concern over a potential 40 percent pay cut for teachers in the enclave once it becomes part of Namibia and Namibia has protested against the sale of dozens of state-owned houses to officials at deflated prices.

The arguing is likely to go on long after the 1 124 square kilometre enclave becomes part of Namibia. Such issues, however, are likely to be far from the minds of most Namibians as the mark the biggest national event since the country became independent.

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Justice agreement signed between SA and Namibia

Argus Africa News Service

(22)

ARG 28/2/94

WALVIS BAY. — South Africa has entered into a justice agreement with Namibia in the first legal co-operation venture between South Africa and another southern African country.

The historic agreement was signed by South Africa's Minister of Justice, Kobie Coetsee, and his Namibian counterpart, Ngarikutuke Tjiriangi.

It provides mechanisms for cross-border crime clampdowns and paves the way for further legal-administration ties between the countries.

It provides for a number of mechanisms to cut legal red-tape between the two countries, enabling (amongst other things) the enforcement of maintenance orders, civil judgments, criminal summonses and subpoenas.

The agreement also clears the way for a joint investigation into the admission of legal practitioners and the admissibility of evidence between South African and Namibian courts.

While an extradition treaty was not included in the agreement, both ministers expressed confidence that an agreement of this nature would be reached soon.

"Extradition is a very sensitive issue and we have left it till last. But I am sure we will reach an agreement," Mr Coetsee said at a Press conference after the signing.

He said the agreement was the first step towards closer co-operation between the countries and said South Africa was to investigate similar contracts with other neighbours.

The signing of this agreement is a commitment to use this as a base for future co-operation and is a sound foundation for other such agreements.

He said sound administrative and legal practices were the cornerstone of future development in the region. Dr Tjiriangi welcomed the agreement and promised further co-operation with South Africa.

He said the contract would aid joint efforts to put an end to money laundering activities across the border as well as the fight against arms smuggling and drug, ivory and rhino horn trafficking.

Namibia takes over at midnight

GERALD L'ANGE of The Argus Africa News Service reports.

(221)

WHENEVER the flags of white rule have been lowered for the last time in Africa it has almost always been to conflicting emotions — sadness on the part of those who valued the old order and joy on the part of those welcoming the new.

So it will be again at midnight tonight when the South African flag is hauled down in Walvis Bay and replaced by the flag of Namibia.

The ceremony marks the surrendering of the second-last bastion of white supremacy in Africa, leaving only South Africa still to fall to black rule. That will happen when the new government takes office in South Africa after the April 27 election, but it will apparently not be marked immediately by a last flag-lowering.

The emotional issue of a new flag for the new South Africa seems to have been shelved for the present.

After South Africa withdrew from Namibia in 1990, Walvis Bay became for many Africans the continent's last outpost of colonialism. They were in no mood to recognise the legal validity of South Africa's claim to the territory, which Britain had made part of the Cape Colony in 1884 after annexing it in 1878, before the boundaries of modern Namibia had been finally drawn in 1890 with the creation of the Caprivi Strip.

Africa's support for Namibia's claim to Walvis Bay had required some fudging of the Organisation of African Unity's dictum that the colonial boundaries inherited at independence were sacrosanct. The enclave's boundaries were no less sacrosanct than any of the others that were arbitrarily demarcated by the European powers in the scramble for Africa. But it happened to be occupied by the perpetrators of apartheid, so all means of recovering it became acceptable to the international community.

Besides that, it had the only viable harbour on the Namibian coastline, which was the only reason it had been annexed by the British in the first

place. They had the opportunity to annex the whole territory at the time, but figured there was nothing worth having in the desert hinterland. They were happy to leave that to the Germans, who were assumed to be incapable of making much use of it while the British held the only harbour.

Holding the harbour was a largely strategic imperative for the British, for they never did much with it. Neither did the South Africans after it became part of the Cape Colony and, in 1910, of the Union of South Africa.

It was not much more than a little fishing harbour when World War I broke out and South Africa entered it on the British side. The Germans sent a force of cavalry down the coast from Swakopmund to attack Walvis Bay. Cheekily ignoring the presence offshore of the Kinfauns Castle, the Union Castle passenger liner that the British had armed and turned into an auxiliary cruiser, the force attacked the police station, seized the few people in the port, blew up the jetty and a tugboat that was in the harbour and rode back along the beach with their prisoners.

Unable to open fire on the force because of the prisoners, the Kinfauns Castle steamed up to Swakopmund and spitefully slammed more than 50 shells into it, wrecking cranes on the jetty that the South African forces could have used when their invasion force occupied Swakopmund in 1915.

The northernmost of the South African forces that invaded German South West Africa landed at Walvis Bay and used the port as its main channel for supplies, including thousands of litres of water from Cape Town's Table Mountain reservoirs that were shipped up the coast.

When South Africa was given care of South West Africa under the League of Nations mandate after the war it was careful to keep Walvis Bay legally — and for a time administratively — separate from the rest of the territory even while it tried to circumvent the

mandate and turn the territory into a fifth province of South Africa. It put a lot of money into developing the port facilities.

When the territory was granted independence as Namibia, Walvis Bay was carefully excluded by Pretoria. There was never any doubt among the Namibians or the international community, however, that it would sooner or later become part of Namibia, together with the 12 offshore islands that had also been bequeathed to South Africa by the British.

Some in the South African government, perhaps thinking of the oil or diamond wealth that might lie in the islands' territorial waters, tried to keep the package in South Africa's hands by turning Walvis Bay into a free port. But eventually, realising that the new South African government would almost certainly hand it over anyway, they gave up.

The handover turned out to be sooner than they had expected, with Pretoria capitulating to pressure at the constitutional negotiations at the World Trade Centre at Kempton Park for a transfer before rather than after the South African election.

For the Namibians, their independence struggle did not end with the lowering of the South African flag in Windhoek — it comes only with the raising of the Namibian flag over Walvis Bay.

● Namibia is to establish its own navy. Namibia's deputy minister of defence Philemon Malima said a maritime force would be established as soon as possible.

He said Namibia's defence policy provided for such a force but was never followed up because of South Africa's control of Walvis Bay.

"But now we have the harbour it will be essential to establish some force even if only a coast guard to protect our coastline and valuable fishing industry," he said.

(News by G L'Ange, 47 Sauer St, Johannesburg).

Bid to block Walvis Bay transfer fails

Staff Reporter

AN urgent application against the transfer of Walvis Bay to Namibia was rejected in chambers by Mr Justice H L Berman late last night.

The application was brought against the President F W de Klerk by Mr Benjamin Isaacs, of Athlone, Cape Town, on the grounds that the two are still involved in a Supreme Court matter that will be reviewed in

June this year.

That case is based on a charge that Mr De Klerk contravenes the right to self-determination of the people of South Africa by negotiating a unitary state.

Mr Isaacs lost this claim in April 1992 and later filed a review application. The review date was set down in February this year for June. Mr Isaacs is trying to prevent the transfer of Walvis Bay on the grounds

that Mr De Klerk has not fully disclosed of this charge against him, which will be heard in June 1994, and therefore cannot sign the transfer. Last night Judge H L Berman said he rejected the application on the grounds that Mr Isaacs has no legal standing or authority to bring the application.

Judge Berman also said that the transfer was made in terms of a Act of

Parliament and that the Supreme Court has no authority to declare an act of Parliament invalid or illegal. Mr Isaacs said he would apply for a review today.

● This follows a similar case in December last year when an application made by Mr Berthold Behr to prevent the handing over of the enclave because there had not been proper consultation with "the bona fida inhabitants" was dismissed.

Walvis Bay free trade zone opened

WALVIS BAY — Namibian President Sam Nujoma yesterday opened a free trade zone in Walvis Bay, calling the newly incorporated port a strategic gate to markets in Africa and Latin America.

The opening ceremony followed the lowering of the SA flag over the territory at midnight on Monday. *Biday*

Nujoma said priorities for the zone were the establishment of factories, service industries and the acquisition of technology.

"We have decided to turn this place into an important international business centre. There will be bonded warehouses, exhibition halls, telecommunications, accommodation, as well as transport and forwarding services. *213194*

"From today Walvis Bay becomes a strategic gate to the emerging markets of southern and west Africa as well as those of Latin America," Nujoma said, noting that the port was rated as the ninth most efficient in the world.

"It has enormous potential to become a major port of container transshipment along the Atlantic coast." *(221)*

Nujoma said physical construction of facilities would begin by next month.

"The zone must be a true tax haven for those who want to set up enterprises here," he said, adding that it would give investors access to Namibia's raw materials through the country's "excellent" infrastructure.

Highways were being built across Botswana to provide access to Johannesburg and through the Caprivi Strip to Zimbabwe and Zambia.

The design and development of the Walvis Bay trade zone is being handled by the Egyptian industrial development and investment firm Pidico. — Reuter.

Walvis Bay gets 'freedom' at midnight

DALE LAUTENBACH
Argus Africa News Service

WALVIS BAY. — South Africa's last dispute with the international community was formally ended at midnight last night as the South African flag was finally lowered in Walvis Bay and the Namibian flag raised in its place.

The formal handing over of the enclave ended a worldwide campaign for its incorporation that had been linked with the demands for Pretoria to surrender control of Namibia and to end apartheid in South Africa.

The other two demands have largely been met by the granting of independence to Namibia in 1990 and the constitutional negotiations leading to the

South African election in April. The last lowering of the orange, white and blue flag was watched in silence by a South African delegation headed by the Minister of Justice and Defence Kobie Coetsee, by Namibian President Sam Nujoma and by representatives of African states and of the Organisation of African Unity.

But Namibians in the stadium joyfully shouted "Down, down, down" in a scene reminiscent of that in 1990 when the flag was lowered in Windhoek to end South Africa's administration of Namibia.

The only sour note in an otherwise dignified, smooth-running show last night was an angry finger-wagging attack from Mr Nujoma on "local spoilers" whose "dubious transactions" had marred the transfer of the enclave from South Africa to Namibia.

"We had similar rip-offs in the past by some of those very same groups, just on the eve of our independence, totalling millions of dollars," said Mr Nujoma.

A source in his office was unsure to what the president was alluding but he believed it to involve the cheap sale of state houses in the enclave to teachers before the handover, in other words the quick privatisation of assets that would otherwise have gone to Namibia.

South African government sources were disappointed that the president chose this occasion for the attack, staged towards the end of an otherwise conciliatory speech.

The predominant tone of the evening, however, was in bigger spirit and little was going to dampen the Namibian enthusiasm for this its "second" and "final" independence. President Robert Mugabe of

Zimbabwe greeted Mr Coetsee warmly and there was even some conversation, if a little awkward, between Mr Coetsee and President Jerry Rawlings of Ghana.

A display of "langarm" dancing had Mr Coetsee delighted and, it seemed, attempting to explain the significance of this to Flight-Lieutenant Rawlings.

On a more sober note Mr Nujoma urged the South African government to take "bold steps to arrest the alarming blood-letting" in South Africa and to hold the elections on the agreed date.

Violence and intransigence on the part of some South African parties was threatening the process, he said.

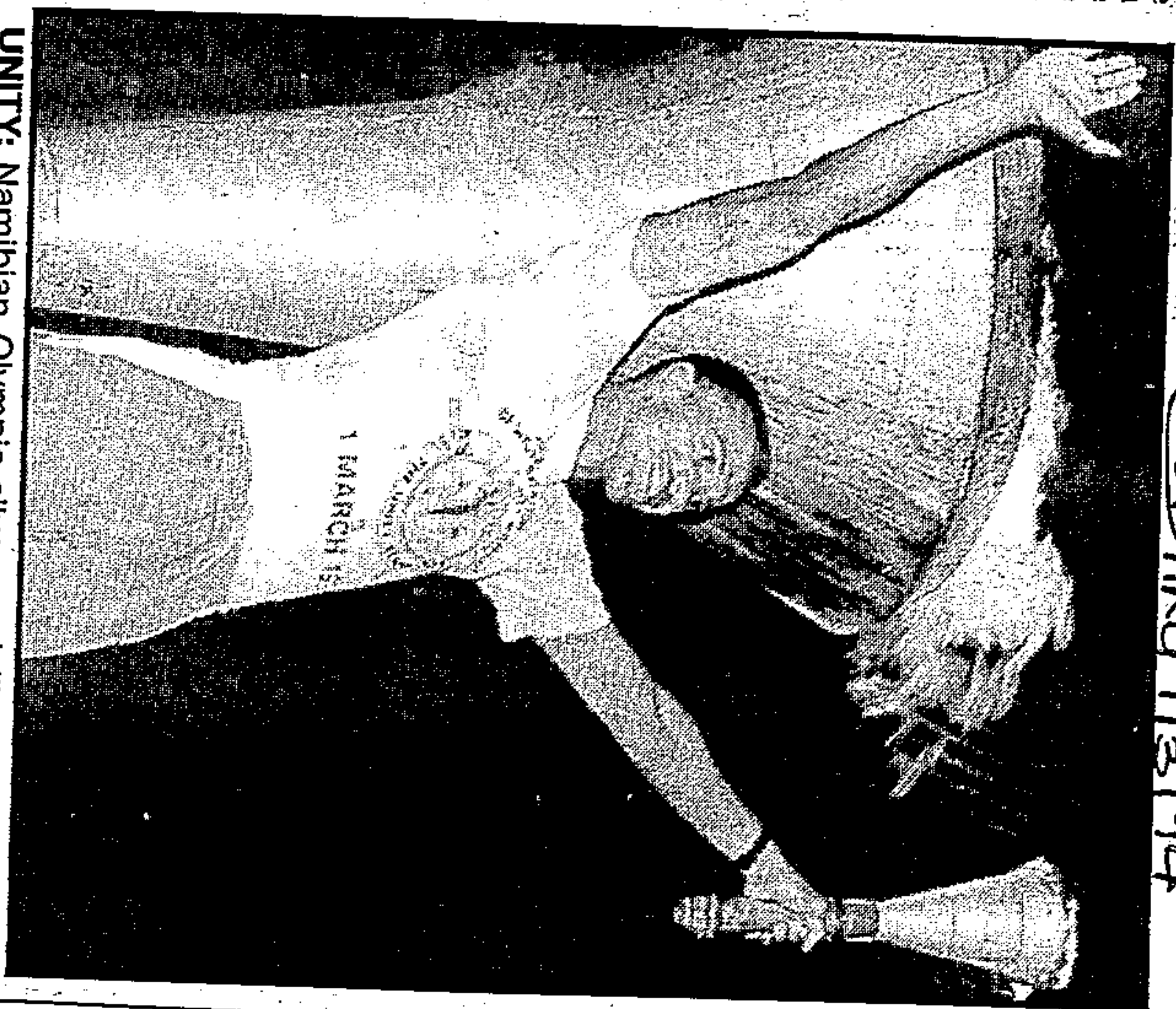
"To him (Mr Coetsee) and all his compatriots, regardless of their political affiliations, I wish to extend our best wishes and encouragement at this hour of enormous trials and tribulations."

Before fireworks rivalled a full moon over the desert town and after the orange, white and blue had been lowered for the last time at midnight, Mr Coetsee emphasised the triumph for negotiations that Walvis Bay represented.

"Walvis Bay and the Penguin islands are now finally an integral part of Namibia," he said on behalf of President De Klerk. "We have reached this goal peacefully. It represents a triumph for the process of negotiation."

In the township of Kuisebmond where the celebrations took place in the stadium, Namibians — or were they South Africans? — lined the streets and thronged the small stadium.

Among the guests were the ANC's Walter Sisulu and Thabo Mbeki.



UNITY: Namibian Olympic silver medalist Frankie Fredricks lights the Unity Flame today in Walvis Bay, giving the port city back to Namibia after 35 years of South African rule.
Picture: Agence France Presse.

"I am excited to come on a day like this," said Mr Sisulu. "I feel just like the Namibians do."

"Elated," said Namibian Foreign Affairs Minister Theo-Ben Gurirab, the driving force behind the negotiations which led to this peaceful settlement.

"This latest victory represents the second independence of Namibia," he said, reflecting popular sentiment that the "first independence" had fallen

short by excluding Walvis Bay. On the ground in the enclave there is some uncertainty but mainly relief that the dispute is settled. "I see only positive things for the future," said mayor Bryce Edwards. "The benefits that accrued to Walvis Bay from South Africa would be matched and even exceeded now that the bay and its fine port could call itself Namibian in the eyes of the world," he said.

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1/23/94



Picture: Ken Oosterbroek, Argus Africa News Service.

TOGETHER: Namibian president Sam Nujoma salutes the small crowd of Namibians who gathered outside the Walvis Bay Civic Centre to welcome his historic arrival here yesterday. With him are Zimbabwean president Robert Mugabe, left, and president of Ghana, Flight Lieutenant Jerry Rawlings, on the right.

Signing of treaty cedes Walvis Bay to Namibia

WALVIS BAY — SA and Namibia yesterday signed the treaty which at midnight ceded Walvis Bay and 12 islands to Namibia after 84 years of rule by Pretoria.

Justice Minister Kobie Coetsee and his Namibian counterpart Ngarikutuke Tjiriange signed the document in the offices of the Joint Administration Authority, a body set up in 1992 to jointly administer the port enclave.

The authority ceased to exist when the treaty took effect.

The treaty bound both parties to conclude speedily all outstanding agreements relating to the transfer of authority over Walvis Bay and settle any resulting disputes amicably through diplomatic channels.

An agreement between the Namibian Ports Authority (NPA) and Portnet on Sunday came into effect when the operations of the port of Walvis Bay were transferred.

Portnet said provisions of the agreement would remain in effect until agreement was reached on the takeover of the port's liabilities by the Namibian government.

Until then the NPA would pay Portnet interest on the claimed liabilities for the use of the port's assets, Portnet said.

Portnet spokesman Pieter Smit said: "It is the desire of both parties to settle the matter of liabilities as rapidly as possible and to this extent it has been agreed to achieve this through arbitration."

Ownership of the assets of the port would remain vested in Portnet until the arbitrator had made an award on the settlement of certain Portnet liabilities.

Both parties were committed to a transfer without any disruption of management or control of the port, he said.

In terms of the agreement, port personnel would resign from Portnet and join the NPA on March 1.

Only about 20 of the 350 staff members had elected to return to Portnet in SA.

The NPA would honour Portnet's existing contracts.

Portnet is understood to value its assets in Walvis Bay at R84m and its liabilities at R60m.

However, these figures could not be confirmed.

A similar agreement has been reached between Namibian and SA telecommunications parastatals.

Eskom and Namibian electricity supplier Swawek agreed last week that Swawek would pay R24m for the Paratus power station in Walvis Bay.

Agreement had also been reached on the transfer of the SA Postal Services to Namibia.

Joint Administration Authority SA CEO Carl von Hirschberg said months of negotiations between Namibia and SA had resulted in scores of agreements, many of which awaited finalisation and would be signed only during the week after the transition ceremony.

Among outstanding agreements were those on roads and bridges, conservation, water affairs, taxes, minerals and energy.

The SADF had all but withdrawn from Walvis Bay and police from both countries had agreed to share duties until the end of March.

Zimbabwe President Robert Mugabe said yesterday the integration of Walvis Bay into Namibia would enhance co-operation between SA and Namibia.

Mugabe said: "It has opened a new chapter of relations between SA and Namibia." — Sapa.

Walvis Bay is now Namibian

(221)

WALVIS BAY. — Namibia gained its first major port last night as South Africa ended 84 years of control over Walvis Bay in a colourful ceremony attended by African presidents and a host of international dignitaries.

The South African flag was lowered in the port town for the last time at midnight and replaced by Namibia's flag as thousands of Namibians cheered the lighting of an Olympic-style unity flame by world sprint champion Frankie Fredericks.

The final treaty on the transition was signed in Walvis Bay yesterday by South African Minister of Justice and Defence Mr Kobié Coetsee and his Namibian counterpart Mr Ngarikutuke Tjiriangé to fulfil a long-held demand under international law. The treaty took effect at midnight.

Doctors take CPA to court

Staff Reporter

FIVE Walvis Bay doctors made an urgent application to the Industrial Court yesterday to have the termination of their employment by the Cape Provincial Administration set aside.

The doctors were given notice of their dismissals last Thursday.

Advocate Ms Madeleine de Swardt, acting for the Medical

Association of South Africa (Masa), brought the application on behalf of the doctors on the grounds that the CPA had committed an unfair labour practice.

Ms De Swardt said the notices showed "flagrant disregard" for agreements made last year.

The applicants are: Dr Paul Coulson, Dr Hofmeyer Viljoen, Dr Jacobus Theron, Dr Brian Roberts and Dr Desmond Benkenstein.

Delivering a speech on behalf of President F W de Klerk just minutes after Walvis Bay became Namibian, Mr Coetsee said the transition was a move towards greater co-operation and democracy in Africa.

"Tonight we have reached the end of a long and arduous journey spanning several genera-

tions. It represents a triumph for the process of negotiation.

Earlier Zimbabwe's President Robert Mugabe said Walvis Bay's reintegration into Namibia would enhance co-operation and open a new chapter of relations between South Africa and Namibia. — Sapa CT1/3/94



Walvis Bay ... Namibian President Sam Nujoma greets guests at the grandstand from the back of an open jeep on arrival at the Kuisebmond Stadium shortly before midnight yesterday. He was there to participate in the ceremony which heralded the Walvis Bay enclave's re-integration into Namibia.

PICTURE BY KEN OOSTERBROOK

End of SA's last international dispute

Sowetan 21/3/1994

Sowetan Correspondent

WALVIS BAY — South Africa's last remaining dispute with the international community was formally ended at midnight on Monday as the South African flag was finally lowered in Walvis Bay and the Namibia flag raised in its place.

The formal handing over of the enclave ended a worldwide campaign for

its incorporation that had been linked with the demands for Pretoria to surrender control of Namibia and to end apartheid in South Africa.

The other two demands had largely been met by the granting of independence to Namibia in 1990 and the constitutional negotiations leading to the South African election in April. The last lowering of the orange, white

and blue flag was watched in silence by a South African delegation headed by Justice Minister Mr Kobie Coetsee, Namibian President Mr Sam Nujoma and representatives of African states and of the Organisation of African Unity.

But Namibians in the stadium joyfully shouted "Down, down, down" in a scene reminiscent of that in 1990 when

the flag was lowered in Windhoek to end South Africa's administration of Namibia.

"Namibia will now have its own front door to the world and we wish Namibia luck and the citizens of Walvis Bay the very best for the future," Coetsee said when he signed the handover treaty with his Namibian counterpart Mr Ngarikukwe Tjirange.

Citizenship for non-Namibians

WINDHOEK — Non-Namibians who have lived in the country for 10 or more years may be granted citizenship.

CT 11/3/74
The Namibian cabinet decided this week that legislation should be prepared to allow people without residence permits and who cannot furnish proof of citizenship, but consider Namibia their home, to obtain citizenship. — Sapa (221)

SA and Namibia still arguing

PRETORIA — SA and Namibian authorities are still squabbling over the transfer of state assets following the reincorporation of Walvis Bay into Namibia. *8/Day*

The TEC subcouncil on finance reported this week that a "host of agreements" were still outstanding, while differences in opinion over the value of Portnet assets in Walvis Bay may have to go to arbitration.

A Namibian government representative told the subcouncil recently that according to a cost benefit analysis of Portnet, which was conducted by Namibia's auditor-general, SA owed Namibia R34m.

The SA government has said the auditor-general's report was incorrect.

According to SA auditors, Namibia must pay R64m to cover Portnet's medium- and long-term liabilities.

The subcouncil noted a joint team had been established in an attempt to "recon-

ADRIAN HADLAND

cile the calculations". If this failed, an arbitration council would be appointed.

At the crux of the difficulties is whether institutions such as Portnet represent state assets or parastatal entities. *24/3/94*

The Namibian representative asked the TEC to "express itself on the internationally recognised principle of state succession, which is still a real stumbling block, as there is still no real agreement between the two governments". *(221)*

Also yet to be resolved is the question of the secondment of public service personnel. SA public servants in Walvis Bay who have not accepted refrenchment packages, or taken transfers to SA, face salary reductions of between R500 and R1 000 a month if they are to be included in Namibia's civil service.

Report by A Hadland, TML, 218 Vermeulen St, Pta.

Namibia sees the light ^{w/m}

John Grobler

25-30/3/94

NAMIBIANS were nonplussed by the new Daylight Saving Scheme implemented this week on the eve of the fourth anniversary of the country's independence. (221)

The new scheme means Namibians must move their clocks back by one hour every March 21, and forward by an hour every September 21. Until now, Namibia has operated in the same time-zone as South Africa, mostly because of the historic ties between the two countries and for the convenience of trade, although the country lies in a different time-zone laid down by an 1884 international convention on time-zones.

As the country's fourth anniversary rolled around this week, public clocks in the capital, Windhoek, showed a confusing array of times — some with as much as a two-hour difference between them.

An opposition MP was prompted to ask government officials not to adjust their watches, saying: "This way, they will only be half-an-hour late for appointments."

It also means air-travellers between Namibia and South Africa will take three hours from Windhoek International Airport to Jan Smuts in Johannesburg, while a journey in the opposite direction will only take one hour. The actual duration of the flight, commuters will be glad to know, will still be only two hours.

Quipped Helen Marais, a late-night reveller: "At least we will now have an extra hour to cope with our independence hangovers tomorrow!"

Top Namibian 'corrupt'

WINDHOEK. — Namibian Foreign Affairs Permanent Secretary Mr Andreas Guibeb has been accused of corruption, favouritism and negligence related to the buying of seven Mercedes Benz cars in 1991.

An ombudsman's report tabled in the National Assembly this week said the vehicles, for overseas diplomatic missions, were bought through Namtrade Overseas (Namtro), cost the government about R85 500 and violated government regulations.

It also said there was a reluctance to produce original files relating to the purchases, despite Mr Guibeb's assurance of free access to all documents.

Mr Guibeb and a Miss Mahida Oualid, who turned out to be his wife, conducted all correspondence between the ministry and Namtro.

Mr Guibeb is quoted in the ombudsman's report as saying he would immediately resign if he came under suspicion. — Sapa

(22) CT 7/4/94

Lubowski trial: Mercenary 'given chance to escape'

ARC 19/4/94 (221)

WINDHOEK. — An Irish mercenary was given several opportunities to escape after his detention in connection with the assassination of South West Africa Peoples Organisation activist Anton Lubowski, he told an inquest court here.

Donald Acheson was held for eight months after the murder of Mr Lubowski, who was gunned down outside his home in Sanderburg Road, Windhoek on September 12, 1989.

In an affidavit handed to the court yesterday, Mr Acheson said that while he could not confirm deputy police commissioner Jumbo Smit was on the payroll of the Civil Co-operation Bureau, some of the commissioner's actions had led him to suspect this.

These included Commissioner Smit giving Mr Acheson several opportunities to escape during his detention.

He referred to occasions when he had been left alone or his door had been left open and said General Smit had asked him why he didn't "make a run for it".

Mr Acheson said he became involved in the CCB after being arrested for shoplifting in Johannesburg in 1989.

He had been approached by a man codenamed "Derrick", who he later learnt was Chappie Maree, who had asked him to go to Namibia to observe, monitor and kill people, if necessary.

Mr Acheson said he had been warned that if he was caught, he was "on his own".

He had been ordered to photograph white people entering and leaving Swapo premises in Windhoek and to plant explosive devices in vehicles, including those of the United Nations Transitional Group.

The mercenary was also told to assassinate Gwen Lister, editor of The Namibian newspaper.

In a statement handed to the inquest, Mr Acheson said Mr Maree had told him on September 10, 1989, to "exterminate Lister with a slow-acting poison" which would kill her within 48 hours.

Mr Acheson said he was given the poison and a syringe and told to "do it as soon as possible".

He said he had watched Ms Lister's home and office on various occasions, but could not get close to her.

Mr Acheson was arrested after his former landlady, Waltraud Ratzke, told police of his "strange behaviour on the night of Mr Lubowski's murder".

Several witnesses gave evidence yesterday and affidavits by witnesses who no longer live in Namibia were read out. They testified they saw a vehicle without number plates driving down Mr Lubowski's street after the assassination.

V Muhl, a former teacher now living in Germany, found Mr Lubowski's body in a pool of blood with his briefcase clutched in his left hand.

W Ratzke, the husband of Mr Acheson's landlady, testified that the mercenary had arrived home after the shooting carrying a dark brown hessian bag, which he thought contained a jack, but it could have been a rifle.

A car rental company representative, Dennis Nautoro, said a vehicle Mr Acheson hired was returned with scratches and dents and the rear number plate seemed to contain traces of glue.

The inquest continues today. — Sapa.

Cop knew of CCB Lubowski plot

WINDHOEK. — A Namibian policeman knew of a Civil Co-operation Bureau (CCB) plan to assassinate Swapo activist Mr. Anton Lubowski, an inquest court was told yesterday.

Chief Inspector Willem Terblanche was giving evidence on the fourth day of the inquest into the death of Mr. Lubowski, who was gunned down outside his Windhoek home on September 12, 1989.

He said Mr. Charles Neelise, who worked with certain CCB members as a helper and driver, had told him a group of people planned to assassinate prominent political leaders, including Mr. Lubowski.

They were also intent on discrediting Swapo and sabotaging UN Transitional Group vehicles.

The inspector said he had informed former security force brigadier General "Foffie" Badenhorst of

the plot and had given him details provided by Mr. Neelise, including the names of two men, Messrs. Johan Verwey and Nick Verbeeck, which were aliases for CCB members, and a telephone number in Krugersdorp where the men could be found.

The investigating officer in the case, Deputy Commissioner Jan "Jumbo" Smit, told the court he had arrested Irish mercenary Mr. Donald

Acheson on September 13, the day after the murder, and had found R4 000 in cash among his belongings.

Deputy Commissioner Smit said he was convinced Mr. Lubowski's murder was politically motivated and that an organisation in South Africa was responsible for the assassination. **221 CT 22/4/94**

The inquest continues before Mr. Justice H. Levy today. — Sapa

Namibian policemen axed over Lubowski

ARL 30/4/94

221

WINDHOEK. — Four top Namibian policemen have been suspended following evidence at the inquest on Swapo activist Anton Lubowski five years after he was assassinated.

Inspector-General of the Namibian Police Raonga Andima last night temporarily suspended four top white police officers on the grounds of evidence given so far in the inquest.

The suspension will be in effect pending "further reports, inquiries, revelations and/or conclusion of the said inquest". Those suspended with immediate effect are General Gerrit "Foffie" Badenhorst, Commissioner Attie Nel, the investigating officer, Deputy Commissioner "Jumbo" Smit, and Deputy Commissioner P J Nel.

The inquest on Mr Lubowski, held nearly five years after he died in a hail of AK 47 bullets outside his home here on September 12, 1989, is about as complicated as it could get, and to date has raised many questions and few answers.

The first of two parts of the inquest has been devoted to the investigation undertaken by Deputy Commissioner Smit of the CID, which centred on the possible involvement of members of South Africa's notorious Civil Co-operation Bureau (CCB) in the assassination.

The second part deals with a separate investigation by black police officers into allegations that a major portion of the white hierarchy still in the Namibian police were party to the killing.

In the first two weeks of the inquest, which is expected to last at least another two, the court has heard evidence from people in all walks of life, from a silver-haired estate agent in a leather jacket to a former CCB operative and a killer who matter-of-factly, and ignoring warnings that he does not have to answer questions which may implicate him in criminal wrongdoing, talks of his murders.

The court began by hearing a statement by Irish mercenary Donald Acheson, who was held for a number of months by

■ Puzzling and dramatic evidence is being unravelled at the inquest on Anton Lubowski five years after his assassination. Weekend Argus Correspondent **GWEN LISTER** reports.

Namibian police for the murder and then released.

Shady CCB operative Johan Niemoeller waxed lyrical only on superficial details about his "blue" and "red" plans which cost the CCB R600 000 but could remember virtually nothing else about his employment with the hit squad nor whether he had video-taped Mr Lubowski's home.

Johann Terreblanche, a police officer, said he had been told of plans to sabotage Namibia's independence elections and kill prominent leaders of Swapo such as Mr Lubowski, and passed this on to General "Foffie" Badenhorst, who at that stage headed the security police.

The investigating officer, Deputy Commissioner Smit

himself, admitted to the court that he had failed to inquire whether Mr Lubowski's telephones were tapped and in this way possibly obtain clues as to how the activist had been monitored on the night of the murder.

Swapo MP Danie Botha and the former girlfriend of Mr Lubowski, Michaela Clayton Figueira, were vaguely and unsubstantially implicated by a self-confessed killer in contradictory statements.

Mr Botha gave black police officers investigating the possible implication of white colleagues in the murder a tongue-lashing yesterday when he accused police of not properly investigating matters, resulting in the names of people like himself and Miss Figueira

being "dragged through the mud" without justification.

Neither has Namibia's prosecutor-general been left out — and Mr Justice Harold Levy, presiding over the inquest, has ordered that Prosecutor-General Hans Heyman give evidence as to why he decided to allow Mr Acheson to go free when there were indications that he had been involved in one way or another.

Finally, in the witness box at present is self-confessed killer Romanus Frans Manango, who says he received his orders from members of the white police hierarchy on the night of the murder, and who corroborates CCB involvement, saying that Staal Burger was in the vehicle from which the shots were fired that killed the activist.

Munango also claimed he would kill when ordered to do so, and when large amounts deposited in his bank account were queried, he stunned the court by saying that R14 000 had been paid to him after he had thrown handgrenades into a students' meeting in Sowejo.

Codenamed "Kiewiet", he also testified that much of his documentary evidence of his involvement in killings had been in a trunk in his home in Bishop Lavis, Cape Town, but that this trunk had been removed by security police.

Also sitting in court watching proceedings at which they are legally represented because they have been implicated, is a row of police and army officers, including the suspended General Badenhorst and former Namibia Defence Force Colonel Desmond Radmore.

There are no certainties in the inquest. But as the process unravels it is revealing much about South Africa's covert activities in Namibia before its independence in 1990.

Perhaps the key to the question of who killed Mr Lubowski lies in a quote from a military document handed in to court in an earlier application by CCB members. Dated April 28, 1987, it chillingly redefines murder as "an attack on an individual enemy target with non-standard weaponry and unconventional methods".

Unveiling Lubowski's killers

(221) WM 3-9/6/94

The ongoing trial of who killed Anton Lubowski in Namibia is nearing conclusion but the answers don't seem any clearer

AFTER weeks of evidence on the shadowy world of South Africa's Civil Co-operation Bureau and security and intelligence forces, Namibia's Judge Harold Levy faces a difficult task. He is expected to decipher the claims and counter-claims and make a ruling in the Windhoek High Court inquest into the September 1989 murder of Swapo central committee member Anton Lubowski.

At stake are the careers of top white Namibian police officers and former officers, and possible conspiracy charges. A NS1,5-million lawsuit against *The Namibian* newspaper has also been put on hold for the duration of the inquest. The paper reported last year that six senior police had met to plot an assassination bid.

Oral evidence finished on Tuesday this week and on Monday the two legal teams are set to begin summing up.

On the one side is lawyer Henrie Barnard, representing some of the police officers who have been accused in evidence and suspended from their posts pending investiga-

tion. These include the man who was charged the Lubowski murder probe, Criminal Investigation Department head Deputy Commissioner Jumbo Smit.

In earlier investigation into the slaying, Smit had been largely responsible for unveiling the CCB. He initially arrested Irishman Donald Acheson, but then released him saying he had been set up by the CCB to take police off the real scent. Earlier in the inquest Smit had said his investigations were blocked by senior South African security personnel.

The Lubowski family has been represented at the inquest by Dave Smuts of the Namibian Bar, Colin Kahanowitz of the Cape Town Bar and Wim Trengove SC. Namibia's Legal Assistance Centre raised the funds.

Key to the closing days of evidence were the testimonies of some of those who had earlier been named. Assistant Inspector-general Foffie Badenhorst (former police security branch commander), Commissioner Atle Nel and Colonel Des Radmore all denied any involvement in the killing, as did Riaan Witte, accused of being the man who pulled the trigger.

Badenhorst had been accused of being the head of the CCB in Namibia but denied any knowledge of the organisation or of named operatives Nic Verbeek alias Staal Burger,



Anton Lubowski

Charles Willdschuddt (formerly Neelse) and Johan Niemoeller. He denied that he had also organised the 1986 murder of Swapo veteran Immanuel Shifdi.

There have been three Namibian police investigations into the killing, the last two black police officer Inspector William Saunderson and Warrant Officer Linus Neumbo. Much of their evidence revolves around allegations by former policemen Willem Roolnaste, now in prison, and Romanus Munango.

The inquest has heard an assess-

ment by a British assistant chief constable, David Pickover (West Yorkshire), working as adviser to Namibia's home affairs minister. Pickover said Munango and Roolnaste's statements were unreliable and full of contradictions, in a bid to flame key people. He also slammed Saunderson and Neumbo for bias and lack of professionalism: "a few facts have been made to fit pre-conceived conclusions".

Saunderson and Neumbo's evidence included claims that the CCB's Burger last visited Namibia in December 1992 with Badenhorst. Neumbo claimed phone tapping by the security branch continued until late 1990 or early 1991 and said he distrusted Namibia's prosecutor general, Hans Heyman. They also said a two-man hit squad had come from South Africa to "eliminate" them and this put them off some of their work.

Lubowski was gunned down in a spray of bullets from an automatic rifle as he rung the doorbell of his home on September 12 1989. It appears to have been a drastic bid to unseat Namibia's relatively peaceful path to pre-independence elections held in November that year. One aim behind holding the inquest had been to clear up lingering suspicions and see if there was concrete evidence against people still serving in the top security positions.

Parties hit at Swapo 'corruption'

WINDHOEK. — With Namibia's first post-independence elections looming, the main opposition says more campaign funds would secure it victory — and three smaller parties have agreed to form a coalition. (221)

Both the DTA of Namibia and the new Democratic Coalition of Namibia (DCN) accused the ruling Swapo party yesterday of corruption and financial mismanagement.

DTA president Mishake Muyongo said Swapo could not be trusted to run a free and fair election. He called for more independent members on the Electoral Commission, the body charged with running the parliamentary and presidential elections in December.

The DTA, with 21 of 72 parliamentary seats, did not have sufficient funds to overthrow Swapo at the polls but would nevertheless "work night and day to ensure there is change in this country".

Mr Muyongo accused Swapo of indiscriminate spending at the expense of the poor, adding that deteriorating state finances and lack of population control threatened Namibia's status as a stable African democracy. ARG 30/6/94

The National Patriotic Front (NPF), the German Union (GU) and the South West African National Union (Swanu), each of which holds one seat in parliament, said they had agreed to launch the DCN in August.

"The only way to maintain democracy is by coming together. We have forgotten our differences in order to try and save our country," NPF president Moses Katjiuongua told a Press conference in Windhoek.

Fraud rampant in Namibia ministries, says watchdog

221 APR 22 1994

WINDHOEK. — Namibia's ministries of foreign affairs, health and education are in the grip of fraud, the auditor-general said in his report for the financial year ending in March last year.

Ranuel Tjingaete said management of finances had deteriorated in most ministries, with permanent secretaries the main culprits for not practising hands-on management.

Mr Tjingaete said the government had done a commendable job at policy level but this was undermined by careless management of state finances.

Treasury instructions had been ignored, resulting in the unauthorised expenditure of huge amounts, especially in the finance and health ministries.

Many ministries had failed to take stock, which meant losses had gone undetected.

The report prompted strong criticism of the government by the main opposition DTA, which yesterday demanded the exposure and disciplining of those responsible for mismanagement and corruption.

The DTA said it wanted enforcement of a code of ethics for state employees. — Sapa.

Ex-Koevoet Namibians 'welcome'

PRETORIA. — Former members of the disbanded Koevoet unit who left Namibia at independence are welcome to return if their Namibian citizenship can be verified, Home Affairs Minister Hifikepunji Pohamba has said here. (221)

"There will be no discrimination whatsoever against them," he said.

Mr Pohamba, also Namibia's Minister of Police, met South African Safety and Security Minister Sydney Mufamadi yesterday to discuss the matter. AR 6/8/94

Their talks came after 93 people were deported from Namibia on Wednesday night after illegally entering the country from South Africa. The group included former members of the South West African Territorial Force, mostly Bushmen, and ex-Koevoet commandos.

At a joint Press conference the two ministers said they had agreed on recommendations on how to han-

dle the repatriation of non-South Africans who were members of the South African security forces before Namibian independence.

Many of them left Namibia in fear of reprisals for their actions during South Africa's counter-insurgency war against the South West African People's Organisation (Swapo).

Mr Mufamadi said details on the repatriation process would be announced only after he and Mr Pohamba had reported to their respective governments.

Mr Pohamba said Namibia was ready to receive those able to verify their Namibian citizenship, but an orderly procedure had to be devised.

"Once we have devised a system to deal with the matter, Namibia and South Africa will jointly drive the process leading to orderly repatriation," Mr Pohamba said. — Sapa.

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ce was obliged to give this
ment to the Attorney-General,
dge said.

gave the State leave to object
21 days from yesterday.
trial was postponed until Sep-
er 19.

Malaysian group housing deal

JOHN DLUDLU

African Development Corpora-
tion, and Malaysian-based El-
ternational yesterday signed a
randum of understanding, pav-
e way for a \$200m housing dev-
nt in the Springs area.

ording to Elcon vice-chairman
Aziz Abdullah, his company
raise the \$200m. This would be
o build 40 000 low-cost homes,
s, shopping complexes and
unity centres. Afcor would pro-
nd for the development.

n would provide \$10m to set up
ry which would supply build-
aterials for the development.
ysian trade commissioner Ab-
ahim said several other deals
the pipeline.

e included a distribution deal
igned today in Cape Town by
Paints SA.

that all rent arrears be written off and amenities be upgraded.

Feuding taxi groups in bold peace initiative

Biday 10/8/94

MARK ASHURST

FEUDING taxi associations yesterday an-
nounced a new peace initiative in a bid to
end the dispute between taxi operators
that has claimed 20 lives since May.

The "peace and co-operation agree-
ment" offered the SA Police Service and
other governmental bodies a basis "to
change their attitudes towards the taxi
industry", said Federation of Local and
Long Distance Taxi Associations (Feldta)
chairman Sam Manganye.

In terms of the agreement, members of
breakaway taxi associations will return to
their original routes and ranking stations.
These will be monitored by a joint commit-
tee of five representatives from each taxi
association and the Eastern Transvaal-
based Taxi Operators' Peace Initiative
Committee.

Negotiations between three associations
operating routes from Johannesburg to
destinations in the Northern Transvaal and
Eastern Transvaal had been brokered over
a three-month period by the ANC peace
department in Johannesburg.

Shootings broke out on May 28 between
members of the SA Long Distance Taxi
Association (Saldta) and the Lethlabile

Taxi Association (LTA) after LTA drivers
occupied Johannesburg ranks allocated to
Saldta by the Johannesburg City Council.

Saldta and LTA drivers will share Jo-
hannesburg ranks in King George Street
and Noord Street from August 15.

The LTA had been offered alternative
ranks free of charge by the council, but
LTA spokesman George Lekgau said the
allocation of separate ranks exacerbated
tensions between rival operators.

Police would be invited to develop a
specialist taxi unit to investigate taxi-re-
lated crime in conjunction with the joint
monitoring committee.

The agreement will form the basis of
future negotiations on overcrowding and
self-regulation within the industry. The
Joint Monitoring Committee would also
serve as a research body to draft proposals
on restructuring the industry.

Feldta would present the agreement to
its members at a taxi peace rally in Mon-
sterloss in the Eastern Transvaal today,
said Manganye.

Namibian debt announcement due

WINDHOEK — An important an-
nouncement on Namibia's R800m
debt to SA was likely to be made "in
due course", President Nelson Man-
dela said yesterday during a state
visit to Windhoek.

Speaking before the start of talks
with President Sam Nujoma, he said
the announcement would also cover
SA assets in Namibia, including those
left behind in Walvis Bay when the
port was ceded to Windhoek.

These issues, as well as the extradi-
tion of SA citizens to Namibia to
stand trial, would be discussed with
the ANC and government of national
unity.

"We understand very well these
problems and the concern of the
Namibian government that these
matters are addressed so as not to
increase the hardship of the Nami-
bian people," Mandela told Nujoma.

Nujoma said he and Mandela had

discussed the colonial debt and SA
assets in Namibia, the repatriation of
Namibians who served SA's military
during the long war against Swapo
and the extradition of people suspect-
ed of murdering Swapo advocate
Anton Lubowski.

The civil war in Angola, elections
in Mozambique and the political cri-
sis in Lesotho were also discussed.

Nujoma said he was confident the
special relationship between SA and
Namibia would be strengthened fol-
lowing the ANC's election victory.

The countries have about 30 bi-
lateral agreements, including pacts
on water usage, the movement of ani-
mals, justice, education, citizenship
and the secondment of personnel.

"I have no doubt that as a conse-
quence of your visit to Namibia, we
will be able to expand on the already
wide field of co-operation," Nujoma
told Mandela.

Mandela, 76, described being in
Windhoek as "one of the most unfor-
gettable moments" of his life. He said
it had taken 25 years off his age.

He stressed the close relationship
between Swapo and the ANC and be-
tween Namibia and SA, saying they
had to co-operate to ensure economic
and political stability.

Earlier, Mandela was honoured
with one of Windhoek's main streets
named after him. The presidential
motorcade then drove the length of
Nelson Mandela Avenue on the way
to talks with Nujoma.

Hundreds of colourfully-dressed,
singing and dancing Namibians
turned out to greet Mandela, who
took time to watch a variety of cul-
tural acts performed in his honour.

Mandela described having a street
named after him as a "singular hon-
our", bestowed not just on him but on
all of SA. — Sapa.

Brokers were cautiously optimistic

3 / POLITICS

Nujoma wants to help broker Angolan peace

Pledge of big stick for mercenaries

Shas 11/8/94

221

Windhoek — President Mandela said yesterday his government would take strong action against South African citizens working as mercenaries in Angola.

"The strongest disciplinary action will be taken against any South Africans who, for gain, have decided to contribute to the massacres of innocent civilians," he told reporters after a 26-hour state visit to Namibia.

Mandela said Namibian President Sam Nujoma had agreed with him that their countries' citizens should not interfere with the internal affairs of another country. He also said he had discussed

the involvement of South Africans in the Angolan civil war with Luandan President Jose Eduardo dos Santos and UNITA rebel leader Jonas Savimbi.

In an earlier interview Mandela denied specific knowledge of a Pretoria company, Executive Outcomes, which has recruited guards and instructors for the Angolan national army.

Nujoma said Namibia wanted to help broker a peace deal in Angola.

"We have been forbidding our citizens who may try to cross the border into Angola to join either side of the conflict," he said. "Our aim is to bring both sides

together."

A joint statement said: "Both presidents urged Savimbi to cooperate fully with these efforts, aimed at finalising the negotiations."

Mandela confirmed that Savimbi had accepted his offer of talks in Pretoria, but said they had been delayed because of "logistics".

Earlier yesterday Mandela met office staff of the South African High Commission in Windhoek. He told them that whites should take a lead in South Africa's transformation process and that South Africa had to offer stability to the region. — Reuter.

SA might scrap Namibia's debt

Cape Town — The financing needs of the Reconstruction and Development Programme should not prevent the Government writing off loans to Namibia of about R700 million, Deputy President Thabo Mbeki said yesterday.

Answering questions in the National Assembly, Mbeki said South Africans should not "judge ourselves according to a limited set of values".

"Yes, we need houses, we need every cent we can raise. But part of our value system should value other things as well, including good relations with our neighbours."

He said the possibility of writing off Namibia's debt to South Africa was part of normalising relations after years of colonial rule. The process had already included the return of the enclave of Walvis Bay to Namibia.

President Mandela said, while visiting Namibia, that an important statement on the matter would be made soon. — Reuter.

RED MEAT

Fin 19/8/94

Cheaper meat hits Namibia hurdle

221

Namibia is trying to scupper SA plans to import cheap meat. The Namibian Meat Board is opposing an application by its SA counterpart for a 50% tariff rebate on imported factory meat, used in sausages, hamburgers, polony and other products, because this would damage its own exports to SA.

It also casts doubt on who will benefit from cheaper meat and suggests savings will benefit the local industry rather than consumers.

The SA Meat Board has asked the Board on Tariffs & Trade for the rebate to counter a shortage of local meat. Namibia's intervention is because, under the SA Customs Union, whatever tariffs (or rebates) are decided by SA also affect union partners Namibia, Botswana, Lesotho and Swaziland.

Namibia and Botswana, big suppliers to SA's R10bn/year red meat market, feel threatened by cheaper imports from outside the union.

"SA's meat processing industry already gets a full duty rebate on imported canned meat products. If it now gets 50% off the duty on factory meat it will push us out of our biggest market for this product," says Namibian Meat Board GM Hendri Immelman. Imperial Cold Storage CE Roy Smither says the rebate would help restrain future price increases.

Immelman adds that the rebate arrangement will last until the end of the year when the new Gatt tariff arrangement starts. He believes that is why SA's meat lobby is fighting so hard for a rebate. "The SA industry can hugely increase their profits on cheaper imported meat. I doubt if your consumers will see much benefit from the cheaper imports sought."

Behind the trade fight between the two boards is a savage two-year drought which led to a mass sell-off of cattle and sheep; last summer's good rains, which encouraged farmers to hold stock to rebuild herds; and deregulation of the red meat industry which allowed the free movement of meat throughout SA and competitive slaughters at country abattoirs.

The Meat Board used to regulate and administer the slaughter and marketing of red meat in controlled urban markets. Forward buying arrangements with producers, free movement of meat from outlying areas and the free trade in red meat are now legal.

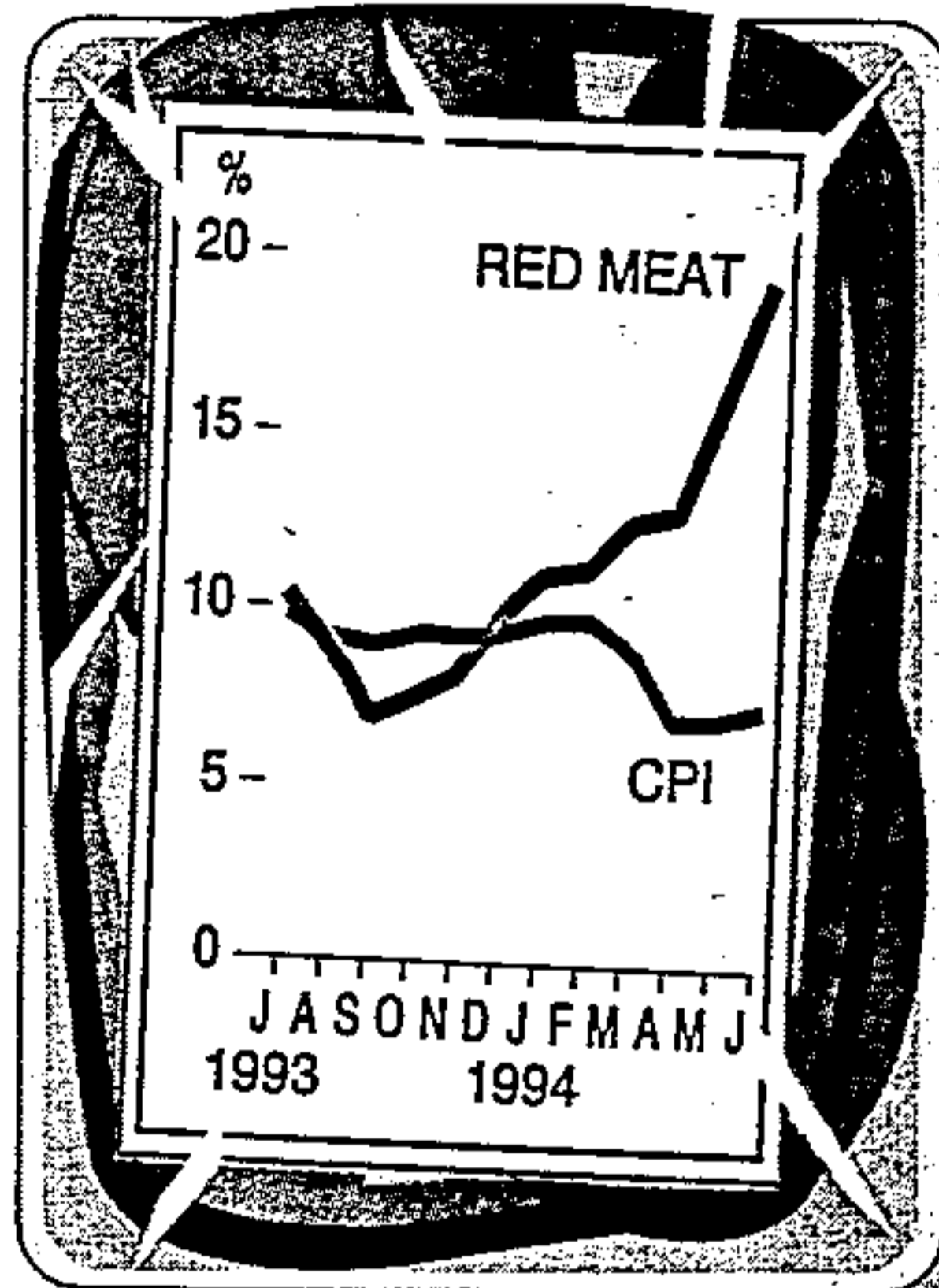
Vleissentraal CE Jan Lombard estimates that forward buying arrangements now constitute about 15% of total red meat trade. The State-owned Abattoir Corp (Abacor), which still owns most urban abattoirs, slaughters less than 50% of volumes of a mere four months ago, says Lombard. Pick

'n Pay's Rob Speedie estimates that the national auction system now accounts for only about 20% of total red meat slaughter.

As a result, farmers are wholesaling their mutton at prices 61% higher than last year's, beef at 49% and pork at 33%. Other winners are wholesalers and retailers, who contracted forward sales at lower prices, and country abattoirs which have siphoned off a large portion of the lucrative slaughter business formerly dominated by Abacor.

Faced with the dramatic fall in meat volumes through formerly controlled markets,

RED MEAT PRICE INFLATION



processors, feedlotter, wholesalers, retailers and producers this year formed a committee to ask government to reduce tariffs on some grades of meat and a rebate on tariffs for factory meat.

On July 19, new tariffs were published by the Department of Trade & Industry, but without the 50% rebate on factory meat. The SA industry immediately accused Namibia and Botswana of using their combined clout through the SA Customs Union to stop the rebate.

Immelman says the industry overreacted. "Nobody in SA can tell us exactly how big the current factory meat shortfall is." He adds that Namibia will this year send about 196 000 cattle to SA, compared with 180 000 last year, while almost 92 000 more sheep have been sent to SA markets so far this year.

SA Meat Board GM Pieter Kempen says his board has "no supplies of factory meat and Namibia and Botswana cannot hope to

meet our needs." He hopes the rebate request will be granted "within the next week or two."

Department of Agriculture chief marketing director Attie Swart isn't so sure. "Temporary rebates tend to create back-door opportunities for abuse by importers. Our policy is rather to discuss the reduction of tariffs. In any case, the investigation into the rebate issue by the Board on Tariffs & Trade still has to be finalised," he says.

Naudé Bremer, chairman of the independent Organisation of Livestock Producers, says the Meat Board's support for a tariff rebate is linked to its close ties to Vleissentraal and Abacor which are suffering in the more competitive market.

"We are in a normal beef production cycle and farmers should be allowed to benefit from price increases," he says. Pick 'n Pay's Speedie confirms factory meat stock is available — if you are prepared to pay the high prices.

He supports reduced tariffs as this would benefit consumers.

Shoprite/Checkers fresh meat MD Allan Johnson says there is a "tremendous shortage" of beef, with fresh carcass prices moving from R6,96/kg in March to R9,50/kg-R10,50/kg now.

Eastern Cape Meat Traders' Association chairman Dennis Meyer says authorities should react faster to industry requests to raise or lower tariffs.

Board on Tariffs & Trade chairman Nic Swart, however, in a letter to the Meat Board's Kempen, notes: "The fact you have reached consensus with certain meat interests does not mean the board can grant such a request without any investigation. Other parties and interests exist which were not part of your consensus decision and, accordingly, the application must be published in order to give everyone an opportunity to comment."

AIRLINES

Airlink backs down

Airlink, the independent domestic airline, appears to be the loser in a head-to-head confrontation with SA Express, which has ties with SA Airways and the ANC.

A price-cutting war on internal routes has ended with Airlink — lacking the financial backing of SA Express — cutting the size of its aircraft and becoming a virtual feeder service for its rival.

In theory, Airlink has formed an "alliance" with SA Express, which was created through investments by SAA, ANC-aligned

Namibian law will force farmers to give up land

ARG 7/9/94 (221)

WINDHOEK. — Namibia's long-awaited Agricultural Land Reform Bill will allow the government to force farmers to give up their land so that it can be used by disadvantaged citizens.

But this will happen only if farmers who are not using their land fully or have extensive farms fail to negotiate a selling price with the government. The Bill says that such farmers — even if they lose their land — would still have the right to compensation.

Under the Bill, the government will have first option on commercial agricultural land put up for sale.

Land acquired under the Bill will be allocated to "Namibian citizens who do not own or otherwise have the use of adequate agricultural land and foremost to those ... who have been socially, economically or educational-

ly disadvantaged by past discriminatory law practices".

Introducing the Bill in the National Assembly yesterday, minister of lands, resettlement and rehabilitation Richard Kabajani said it marked an important milestone in the government's commitment to bringing about a more equitable and just distribution of land.

A second Bill on communal land was expected to go before parliament once a Traditional Council of Leaders had been appointed.

According to figures supplied by Mr Kabajani, approximately 36,2 million hectares — or about 44 percent of all land — is held under freehold title by about 4 000 commercial farmers, while about 150 000 households, comprising about a million people, subsist on 33,5 million hectares. — Sapa.

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NAMIBIA

Fin 30/9/94

Small but determined

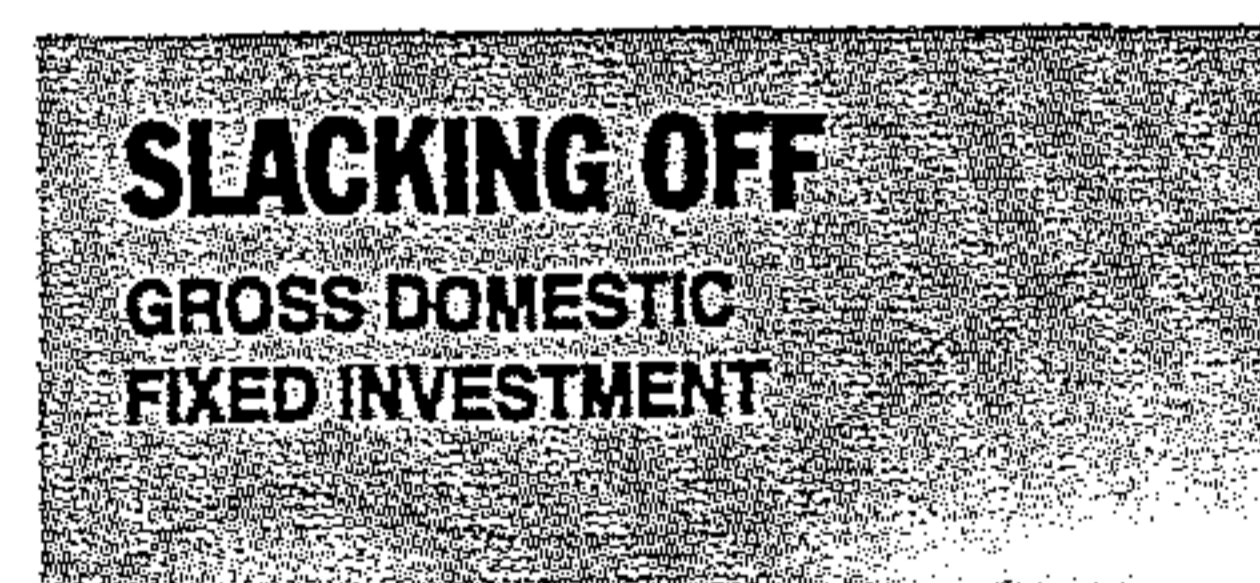
Our dependent neighbour may have a few lessons for us

On March 21 1990 Namibia gained independence from SA, which had acted as controversial guardian for 75 years. It had a new government, with Swapo winning 41 of the 72 seats, and a streetwise, though relatively uneducated President, Sam Nujoma. The elections due to take place in early December this year, nearly five years later, are expected to give Swapo an even greater majority.

However, expectations of large foreign investments came to naught as Namibia failed to provide sufficient incentives for investors fast enough. As with SA after our general election in April, sensible commitments to fiscal discipline and economic growth were possibly overwhelmed by a perception among investors that Swapo, after years of adherence to socialist theories, could not be trusted.

Prophecies about "just another African state" were bandied around. The need to deliver some kind of democracy dividend meant that government grew bigger. Even worse, corruption involving travel allowances and government vehicles was exposed by Auditor-General Fanuel Tjingaete — but the occurrence of the exposure was heartening.

Commonsense soon crowded in and Namibia is surviving. Its economy is in reasonable shape, though signs of stress are showing. Its inextricable links with SA, dependence on minerals and some climatic and geographical factors have ensured that it has not gained economic independence.



Source: SWABOU

After three years of positive real growth in gross domestic product — 0,8% in 1990, 5,6% in 1991 and 5,6% in 1992 — the country experienced a negative growth rate of -3,3% in 1993 while the population increased by 3%. The Finance Ministry, however, predicts a growth rate of 5,3% for 1994 — though there is talk that it could be as high as 7%.

Last year's poor growth came mostly as a result of low commodity prices and a worldwide economic recession, with SA particularly hard hit.

In 1993, GDP growth came from the non-productive government sector (26,9%) and mining (17,6%). Diamonds on their own contributed 11,4%, though their contribution was 28% down from the previous year.

Diamonds are fast being depleted and the country is looking for other sources of revenue. Like SA, Namibia does not have a manufacturing culture, skills are generally poor, wages are too high and productivity is too low.

Unemployment has risen — Swabou economist Rainer Ritter estimates it is as much as 35%-40% — resulting in an increase in crime and poverty. And employment opportunities are limited by declines in fixed investment. In 1993, gross domestic fixed investment declined by 9% to R323m with the largest contribution (41,5%) coming from government.

The increase in government's size is of concern. The number of civil servants has jumped from around 43 000 at independence to almost 70 000 while the wage bill has soared by 84% to R1,7bn.

The World Bank warned in its country study on Namibia that "streamlining the public administration must be at the centre of efforts to bring Namibia's public finances to a sustainable position." It suggests a reduction in the wage bill to 11% of GDP — less than half of the present level. "We're not in favour of mass rationalisation of the civil service," says Finance Minister Gert Hanekom. "If we can maintain a 5% growth rate, we will be able to support the civil service."

And economic growth has been ham-



Namib ... unhelpful geography

(22)

says this will be down at 4% by next year.

Another negative factor for the Namibian economy is that it relies on SA for 90% of imports. The new Namibian dollar is linked to the rand. Along with imports comes inflation and any fluctuations of the rand also affect Namibia.

Membership of the SA Customs Union will remain — Namibia earns 28% of its revenue from this source, though an increase in this contribution is being negotiated. Hanekom says Namibia will be quite happy with just 1% of the foreign investment which might go into SA. "We have no expectations of competing with SA head on."

Advantages

Though Namibia has been struggling to stay economically sound, it has a number of advantages. Government says it has been setting up structures needed for a new country and in the process has shown that its political and fiscal policies are remarkably moderate.

Namibia has only 1,5m people who need to be fed, housed, schooled, and given medical care. The country is served by a sophisticated infrastructure. Roads are well maintained, the telecommunications system works and there is a sophisticated financial sector.

A five-year plan, called National Development Plan 1, is to be introduced from next year.

"Its aim," says National Planning DG Zed Ngavirue, "is to tackle Namibia's main

economic problems." It will attack unemployment, low per capita income growth, the lack of diversity and concentration of ownership, the high degree of dependence on the mining sector, dependence on imports from SA and the low levels of domestic investment and the export of savings for investment abroad.

Part of the plan is to increase growth in sectors which have not traditionally been the most important sources of income. One of these is fishing. Growth in fishing's contribution to real GDP grew by 37,3% in 1993, though its total contribution is just under 2%. Fish processing's contribution grew by 20% and its share of GDP rose from 3% to 4,2%.

Growth has taken place mostly as a result of the increase of the Namibian fishing zone from 12 nautical miles to 200 — "and we have the most efficient surveillance system in Africa," says resource management director Jan Jurgens. Foreign boats are now only allowed to fish within the zone if they hold fishing rights; quotas are conservative.

Fishing rights, given for four, seven or 10 years depending on whether there is Namibian shareholding, were sold to people who would invest in the country and create employment. One of these is Spanish fishing company Pescanova, which invested R141m in Namibia and created more than 800 jobs on land. In the past two years, Jurgens estimates, around R150m has been invested in factories with another R250m invested in boats and around 3 500 jobs created. Quotas are reviewed annually.

The economic plan will also aim to increase growth in manufacturing and tourism as well as try to revitalise the mining sector. Mining has been based mostly on diamonds, uranium and base metals. Low diamond and uranium prices affected the industry badly last year — "uranium production had to be cut by almost half while diamond production was cut by a quarter," estimates director of mines Kombadayedu Kapwanga.

To compensate for the drop in diamond production at existing mines, Namibia is encouraging exploration: 125 applications were received for 18 exploration blocks along the Orange River. Offshore diamond exploration could give the industry a new lease of life. In 1993, CDM, Namibia's version of De Beers, realised a third of its production offshore.

New legislation, the Minerals Prospecting and Mining Act of 1992, which was introduced in April this year, gives investors assurance of tenure and doesn't force government participation in a mine. All profits can be repatriated. "We've spent the last three years putting our mining policy in place; now we're hoping to see results," says Kapwanga.

Manufacturing, however, is a problem. The largest manufacturer (with R170m turnover a year) and private sector employer (with 600 employees) is Namibia Brew-

eries, brewers of brands such as Windhoek Lager and Holsten. MD Bernd Masche says problems arise from the difficulty of competing with SA. **221**

Future growth will depend heavily on investment, foreign and local. The country has embarked on a project to promote Namibia to foreigners. "The basic framework for the economy is in place and we are now able to do more targeted promotions," says acting director of the Investment Centre Steve Galloway. "We know what would interest the different markets. Investment incentives, mostly tax-related, have been put in place, fiscal legislation is clear and institutional capacity to handle investment is being developed. We have to create an investment culture in a previously protected environment."

The problem of domestic savings being exported to SA has been addressed by the Finance Ministry. It amended the Pension Fund and Insurance Acts, forcing pension funds and insurance companies to invest a percentage of funds in Namibia.

By June 30 this year, fund managers had to invest 10% of their assets in the country. By end-December, this will be increased to 15% and by March next year to 25%. "This will probably allow government to borrow

government bonds are listed and a Treasury bill tender takes place weekly.

Namibia created its own central bank in July 1990 and the Namibian dollar was introduced in September 1993. Governor Jaafar Ahmad expresses his frustration at not being able to perform any of the normal duties of a central banker. "We can't conduct monetary policy through the money market because of the coupling of the rand and the Namibian dollar and the transferability of money between SA and Namibia," he says. "What happens in SA will neutralise anything which a central banker can do here."

But Ahmad, who spent 20 years as a central banker in his native Malaysia, says the unusual situation is also a source of pleasure for him. "Other things can be done," he says. "We need to channel credit and savings to the lesser developed sectors. The central bank can play a role to encourage financial institutions to develop these areas." A new Banks Act will be introduced "probably late next year."

Ahmad's appointment possibly had something to do with his experience of Malaysia's economic structural readjustment. There, nearly all financial institutions were foreign-owned and most of their business was trade-related or conducted in urban areas. Ahmad says in Malaysia institutions were forced to mobilise savings, especially in rural areas, by encouraging banks to have outlets there.

Commercial Bank of Namibia MD Hans-Jurgen Steuber says there are certain credit lines planned to encourage smaller companies and entrepreneurs. "But these people don't have security, so it is a risky business," he says. Steuber believes development aid should be used for the small business sector. "We are already trying to form joint ventures between commercial banks and development agencies to distribute these funds."

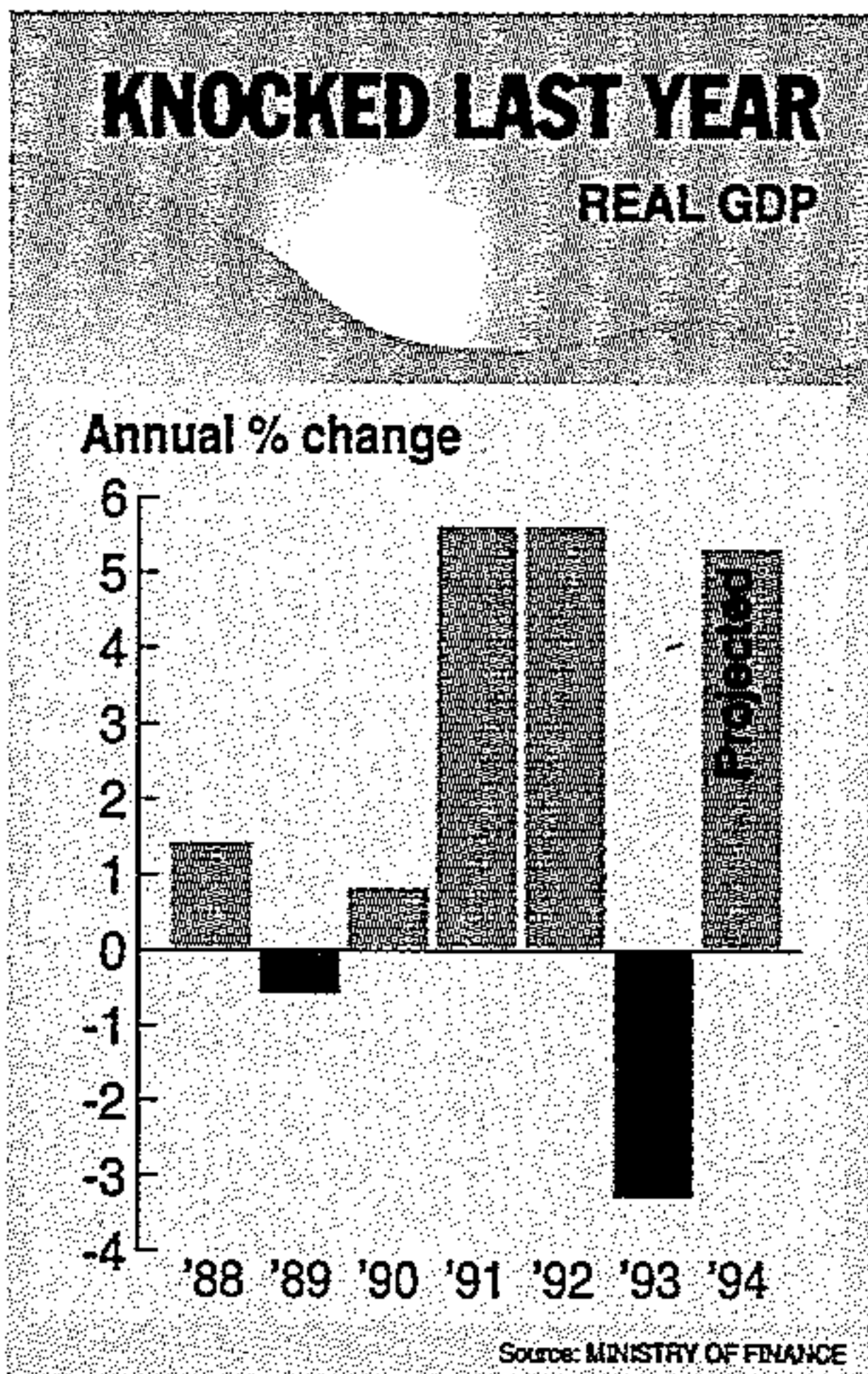
Now that Namibia has its government structures in place and seems to know what its problems are, the question is whether the country will battle for mere survival, grow sufficiently to maintain its population or even follow the examples of the Far East and become an African Tiger.

Growth of government must be watched. Corruption must be rooted out. The country will have to develop an entrepreneurial culture and a positive environment for foreign investors.

Incentives must be favourable, wages must be flexible and job reservation for locals should be abolished.

Namibia will have to build reserves, strengthen its balance of payments and try to move away from the SA comfort zone. But, unless it makes itself heard above the clamour of other countries looking for investment, it could end up struggling for survival.

Most of that applies to SA. Namibia may just have the flexibility and courage to show us the way.



at cheaper rates, which might even have effects such as lower taxes," says Hanekom.

To enhance the investment climate, the Namibian Stock Exchange was opened in October 1992 on the initiative of the private sector and under the leadership of the Commercial Bank of Namibia, the country's third largest banking institution. The exchange is still small, with only 10 shares listed and a market capitalisation in August of R25bn. Tradeability of shares is improving— in September, so far, 104 000 shares with a value of R2,5m traded, up from August's R1m (220 000). Nine gov-

Namibia land reform bill causing ructions

(221) ARG 19/10/94

WINDHOEK. — The thorny question of Namibia's land reform has blown into the open after organised agriculture said proposed legislation was unconstitutional and would lead to socio-economic chaos, record unemployment and reduced earnings.

Namibian Agricultural Union president Paul Smit said the government's land reform bill would drastically reduce foreign exchange earnings from agricultural exports and lead to "unheard of unemployment" among farm workers.

He told the NAU annual congress that legal advice and international opinion had been sought in preparation for a court challenge in terms of the constitution if the bill was passed in parliament.

In reaction, Education Minister Nahas Angula told parliament Mr Smit's statement was "irresponsible and unproductive", and that the NAU should have proposed amendments instead of making threats.

He challenged the union to go to court, saying the ruling

South West African People's Organisation (Swapo) would organise its members to decide what to do about "stolen land".

Attacks on farmers were a result of malpractices by white farmers who mistreated their workers, Mr Angula said.

"Because of frustration about land distribution and mistreatment, it is possible some people are being provoked and forced to take the law into their own hands by killing farmers," he said.

Mr Smit had said the bill was a gross violation of human rights and the principle of property ownership, which would affect the economy.

It would seriously hamper food production by disrupting a well-established commercial agriculture sector "in a basically poor country".

The NAU fully supported the government's land reform process on condition it was done responsibly and in an economically viable way, but the legislation was drafted without consultation with the NAU, Mr Smit said. — Sapa.

Namibia tackles thorny land issue

THE Namibian government has finally bitten the bullet of land reform, but has been warned by white capitalist farmers that the proposed legislation could lead to economic collapse.

The aim of the Commercial Agricultural Land Reform Bill is to enable government to acquire commercial land in order to redistribute it to disadvantaged Namibians.

Pressure for action is great, because there is a continuing sense of grievance that five years after independence 4 000 white

farmers own 36 million hectares of arable land.

Most of the whites run vast cattle-ranches. Several hundred are absentee landlords living in South Africa and Europe.

The Land Bill gives the government first option on the purchase of commercial agricultural land which comes up for sale.

More significantly, it empowers government to negotiate the purchase of farmland at a mutually agreed price. If agreement proves impossible, government will have the right to ac-

quire the land compulsorily.

Preference in redistribution will be given to Namibians disadvantaged by discriminatory laws and practices during the years of German and then white South African colonial control.

They could include the 42 000 exiles who returned home at the end of the independence war in 1989, and people of Namibian origin who have been living in Botswana since the 1904-7 war with the Germans but who want to return to their homeland.

But many commercial farm-

ers oppose the bill. They argue that the issue is not simply who owns the land but how well it is managed. (22)

Kosie Pretorius, a conservative Afrikaner and leader of the Action Christian National party in parliament, says that by benefiting only blacks, the bill will create new problems rather than solving old ones.

The Namibian Agricultural Union president Paul Smit says they will challenge the bill in the courts if the legislation is approved by parliament. — Panos.

CIPress

20/11/94

WPCB

AR6. 24/11/94
Poll 'will be
unfree, unfair'

WINDHOEK. — Two weeks ahead of Namibia's first general election since independence in 1990, the country's main opposition party has demanded that the poll be declared unfree and unfair.

Johan de Waal of the opposition DTA has accused the ruling Swapo of using state funds to finance its election campaign and has called for the poll to be declared unfree and unfair.

Swapo said yesterday that state resources were being used solely to ensure the security of President Sam Nujoma.
— Sapa-AFP.

SWAPO sweeps to victory in Namibia elections

PRESIDENT Sam Nujoma and his ruling SWAPO swept to victory yesterday in Namibia's first post-independence elections, heading for a majority big enough to allow the party to re-write the constitution.

With only three out of 95 counting centres still to declare results, SWAPO had 71,9 percent, the main opposition Democratic Turnhalle Alliance (DTA) 26,4 percent and the United Democratic Front (UDF) less than three percent.

DTA vice-president Katuutire Kaura, saying voting had been largely along tribal lines, conceded defeat. *CIPROD*

Final results are not expected until tomorrow when postal ballots are counted, but political analysts said the SWAPO lead was unassailable, giving the party the authority to re-write the 1990 independence constitution. *11294*

Political analysts said they expected SWAPO to end up with about 50 seats in the 72-member parliament, compared to the 42 it now holds.

The DTA, which holds 21, was expected to hang on to fewer than 20 and the UDF to have the balance. *(221)*

Nujoma, leader of the pre-1990 struggle for in-

dependence from neighbouring Angola, held around 70 percent of the vote in the presidential race against 28 percent for the DTA's Mishake Muyongo, his only opponent.

SWAPO wants a two-thirds majority in parliament to re-write the constitution and enable Nujoma to serve a third term.

Nujoma believes the existing constitution favours the opposition parties.

In some northern constituencies SWAPO polled more than 94 percent of the vote.

Majority

There is little to separate the main three parties politically but each draws its support from different ethnic and tribal groupings in Namibia. The formerly Marxist SWAPO has its power base among the majority Owambo tribe.

Commonwealth observers and those from the Association of European parliamentarians said the poll had been free and fair.

Namibians said SWAPO had to live up to promises to end poverty, create jobs and spread the diamond-rich nation's wealth. — Sapa-Reuter.



HAVING HIS SAY ... A Nama farmer drops his vote in a ballot box in the small rural settlement of Autobib this week during the second day of voting in Namibia's first general elections since independence.

■ Pic: AP

Swapo is aiming for two-thirds ~~Star~~ majority

Windhoek — Namibia's ruling Swapo is poised to strengthen its grip on power in the country's first post-independence elections and aims for a majority big enough to allow it to change the constitution.

Political analysts say they expect Swapo to be returned with an increased majority in the December 7 and 8 polls.

"Opposition parties failed to unite around alternative ideas and policies during the past four years of democratic rule. They are in disarray," said political scientist Andre du Pisani.

"Swapo could well win two-thirds of the votes, the requirement to unilaterally change the constitution," he added.

The party currently holds 42 of 72 national assembly seats, against 21 for the main opposition Democratic Turnhalle Alliance (DTA) and nine for smaller parties.

The current constitution restricts President Sam Nujoma from seeking a third term.

Now Swapo has high hopes of winning more than 66 percent of the vote, giving it a majority to change the constitution to allow Nujoma to run for a third term.

Clauses 5/12/94

Nujoma told supporters: "We must go for more than a two-thirds majority. Our slogan from now is 72 seats, all for Swapo. (221)

"There are some clauses of the constitution which favour opposition parties and we might want to get rid of those."

Political analysts say the DTA had since independence in 1990 produced no alternative policies or fighting spirit.

DTA president Mishake Muyongo said his party had been stifled by Swapo "arrogance, intimidation and ethnic emphasis."

"Swapo derives most of its support from the country's largest ethnic group — the Owambo — and is using intimidating tactics against the minority groups."

Nujoma, an Owambo, told Reuters Swapo's dominance posed no threat to democracy.

"There will be nothing sinister about getting more than the two-thirds majority," he said.

About 650 000 of Namibia's 1.4 million population are expected to vote in the presidential and parliamentary polls. — Sapa-Reuter

Namibian independence has not emancipated the poor from poverty, but Swapo is assured of victory in the pending election, writes Patrick Laurence for The Star Foreign Service

DTA left out in the cold

The Democratic Turnhalle Alliance (DTA) would have been preparing to take power in Windhoek after Namibia's first post-independence election this week if the plans of the Machiavellian schemers in South Africa's old regime had not gone awry.

According to Nico Basson, a former South African military intelligence agent who worked in Namibia at the time of the pre-independence election of November 1989, South Africa's long-term plan at the time was to lay the foundations for a DTA victory in the first post-independence election.

The idea in essence was to strengthen opposition parties in Namibia, particularly the DTA, to ensure that they were not overwhelmed by Sam Nujoma's Swapo in the 1989 election and therefore able to exploit the "inevitable" mistakes of a Swapo government between then and the next election. South African "advisers" and money would be available to assist in the exploitation of Swapo's anticipated blunders and thus to help ensure the installation of a conservative government.

The extent of South African aid to the anti-Swapo parties, of which the DTA was the largest, was officially admitted by Pretoria in 1991: R100 million was paid to oppo-

sition parties in the run-up to the 1989 polls.

Dirk Mudge's DTA — and, to a lesser extent, Justus Garoeb's United Democratic Front (UDF) — did reasonably well in the 1989 election. Swapo did not attain a two-thirds majority, winning just over 57 percent of the vote and 41 of the 72 contested seats. The DTA, an alliance of ethnically based parties, captured 28,6 percent of the vote and won 21 of the 72 seats.

Unthinkable

But a DTA victory in this election is unthinkable. The DTA, anticipating defeat, has already accused Swapo of using state funds to finance its election campaign and called for the poll to be declared unfree in advance. The issue is not whether Swapo will win but whether it will substantially increase its 1989 majority.

A Western diplomat remarks that Swapo may win two-thirds of the votes or even three-quarters. Swapo gains in the 1992 regional elections — when it won control of nine of the 12 regional councils — give substance to his prediction.

A two-thirds majority will enable Swapo to change the constitution, including the clause

which prevents Nujoma, aged 65, from serving as president for longer than two five-year terms. Nujoma, who assumed office as Namibia's first president after the 1989 election, has dismissed fears that he has dictatorial ambitions. "We will carry out our policy as contained in our election manifesto," he says. "There will be no dictatorship."

One reason for the impending Swapo victory is that the DTA's South African backers — the National Party in general and security-crats who held sway under P W Botha in particular — have lost control of the situation. No covert funds will be channelled by Nelson Mandela's Government to the DTA under Mudge's successor, Mishake Muyongo.

Nujoma, not Muyongo, will be the beneficiary of the South African connection. It is he, not Muyongo, who is seen as Mandela's political kinsman in Namibia. The DTA is still tainted by its links with the old apartheid regime.

One clear sign of how the National Party lost control of the situation came during the 1993 settlement negotiations in South Africa. In August last year De Klerk's administration was forced by pressure from Mandela's African National Congress to agree to transfer control of Walvis Bay — the only deep-

water port on the Namibian coast — to Namibia.

On the eve of the Namibian election the DTA finds itself in an unenviable situation: the flow of taxpayers' money from South Africa has dried up but the DTA is still remembered as the party which held out its hands for covert funds in 1989.

It faces new disadvantages. Mudge, who for years was the driving force behind the DTA, has retired. His successor, Muyongo, has the advantage of being black in a country which is overwhelmingly black. He comes from the northern Caprivi enclave, however. In the judgment of many, he faces a nearly impossible task of projecting a national image and garnering support throughout Namibia. His chances of defeating Nujoma in the parallel presidential election are negligible.

Nullified

Another sign that the DTA is struggling for survival rather than surging to victory is the defection of one of its best leaders, Andrew Matilla, to the Democratic Coalition of Namibia (DCN). Moses Katjuonga's DCN looked at one stage as if it might oust the DTA as the second biggest party but the withdrawal

of Garoeb's UDF seems to have nullified that possibility.

After nearly five years of independence Nujoma's government has, of course, committed errors of omission and commission.

Swapo has made little if any progress in eliminating the glaring disparities between rich and poor. A diplomat notes: "The gap between the rich and the poor is one of the most skewed in the world." Unemployment is estimated to be between 35 and 40 percent by the Namibian-based economist Rainer Ritter. The millennium is as remote as ever, except for the elite. Nujoma's motorcades through Windhoek are seen as a brash and extravagant display of power.

Suspensions of corruption are strong. Nujoma's cabinet ministers are accused of poaching protected wild ostriches, using relief funds to drill boreholes on their own farms and favouring relatives with lucrative contracts to supply diplomats with luxury cars.

Muyongo declares: "Namibians will be stridden to elect a corrupt government." His allegation of corruption in high places is unlikely to make much impact on voting intentions. His party is too weak and too tainted by its former links with South Africa to effectively exploit the weaknesses of Nujoma's government.

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Sam Nujoma . . . has dismissed fears that he has dictatorial ambitions.



Dik Mudge . . . DTA has lost ground since he resigned as leader.

6/22/94



Jubilation . . . Namibians celebrate independence on March 20 1990. This week they vote in their first post-independence election.

PICTURE: AP

'Namibia not to repay'

Sowetan 7/12/84
PRESIDENT Nelson Mandela announced yesterday that properties previously registered in the name of South Africa in Namibia would be transferred to the Windhoek government. He made the announcement during wide-ranging talks in Upington with Namibian President Sam Nujoma. (22)

At the same time, Mandela indicated that the SA Cabinet, regarded it as unacceptable that a developing country be required to

repay a debt incurred by a colonial power. The finance ministers of the two countries would meet soon to give effect to this decision which hovers around Namibia inheriting debts for which South Africa stood guarantor for the former South West African administration.

Mandela and Nujoma also agreed that trade and co-operation between SA and Namibia be encouraged. — Sapa.

Namibian NGO forum fights on for land reform

221
ADELE BALETA
Staff Reporter

ARG 7/12/94

THE Namibian NGO Forum will continue to fight for the redistribution of land in Namibia and press the government for a bill on land reform.

This is the view of Lindi Kazombane, a director of the Namibian Development Trust and an executive member of Namibia's NGO Forum.

She was speaking at the launch of the Western Cape Non-Governmental Organisation Coalition in Manenberg.

Ms Kazombane said Namibia had suffered similar problems to South Africa in that it was colonised and had to deal with apartheid inequities. After independence NGOs had to redefine

their role to continue to make an impact on civil society.

For this reason the NGOs decided to form an umbrella body, which now had government recognition as a social partner in the National Development Plan (the equivalent of South Africa's RDP).

She noted Namibia was holding its first post-independent election today and NGO's legal identity under Namibian law has ensured their existence.

The NGOs, while having moved closer, have moved away from party politics.

Earlier, coalition steering committee member Sharon Folentine said the establishment of the NGO Coalition in the West-

ern Cape was the result of two years of discussion.

"It comes at a time when there is an urgent need for NGOs to unite, to negotiate new relationships with the state and to ensure the continuation of independent funds for NGOs."

She said the point of the coalition was also to promote, protect and assert the rights of NGOs as equal partners in reconstruction and development.

Issues around which the coalition will organise include tax benefits for NGOs, attempts to simplify their registration and fund-raising procedures, and to remove from the statute books any punishment meted out to people due to their political affiliations.

Shortage of electioneering funds

No surprises expected in Namibian poll

BY PATRICK LAURENCE
STAR FOREIGN SERVICE

Windhoek — Namibia's first post-independence election starts today in an atmosphere devoid of the frenzied electioneering and intense excitement of the pre-independence election of November 1989.

There are two primary reasons for the comparative lack of excitement: the eight competing parties do not have the same amount of money to spend as they did in 1989, while the result of the contest is not in doubt.

In 1989 the two main parties, Swapo and the Democratic Turnhalle Alliance (DTA), were awash with funds from international backers.

The SA government secretly channelled at least R100 million into Namibia in a vain bid to forestall a Swapo victory. The bulk of the money went to the DTA.

The shortage of money is now apparent in the relative dearth of election posters in the streets. Also, Swapo posters are in black and white, not colour.

Where the contest was closely fought in 1989, the result in the present two-day election is a foregone conclusion: a second victory for Sam Nujoma's Swapo.

The question is not whether Swapo will return to power but whether it will be able to attain the two-thirds majority which eluded it in 1989.

In 1989 there was a 95 percent poll. Today the director of elec-

tions, Gerhard Totemeyer, says he will be happy with a 70 percent poll.

But that does not mean that the election is of mere academic interest to the just over 654 000 registered voters.

As the opposition parties, particularly the DTA, keep stressing, if Swapo obtains a two-thirds majority it will be able to alter the constitution, including two key clauses: one which restricts the time any one person can occupy the presidential office to two five-year terms and another which guarantees payment of just compensation to the predominantly white farmers if their land is confiscated to appease black demands for more land. (221)

There are fears that the bearded and seemingly genial Nujoma — who at 65 is relatively young — will want to serve as Namibia's president for longer than two terms.

A man who was accused by some of his own lieutenants of not respecting Swapo's constitution during his sojourn in exile, Nujoma has done or said nothing to dispel those fears.

The election is a two-process election with two distinctive ballot papers, involving the election of a new president by direct vote and the election of the 72-member National Assembly.

If Nujoma wins the presidential contest by a massive margin, he may regard it as a mandate to change the constitution.



Old favourite . . . a young child sleeps on her mother's back in Windhoek yesterday as she queues to register for Namibia's first election since independence in 1990. The woman is wearing a scarf depicting Namibian president Sam Nujoma.

PICTURE: AP

Nujoma set to win peaceful Namibia poll

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ARG 7/12/94

The Argus Foreign Service and Reuter

WINDHOEK. — Namibians began voting in their first post-independence elections today with thousands queuing in the capital Windhoek.

President Sam Nujoma, one of the first to vote soon after polls opened, said his ruling SWAPO party had buried colonialism and needed to concentrate on social problems.

"We have finally buried apartheid ... we must bury poverty, hunger, disease and ignorance with the same vigour that we buried colonialism and apartheid," said a bearded and smiling Nujoma.

Long queues formed of cheerful voters gathered throughout the city and in its heavily-populated Katutura township, regarded as a SWAPO stronghold.

About 650 000 people are eligible to vote in the two-day presidential and parliamentary elections which SWAPO, in power since 1990 independence, is tipped to win with an increased majority.

The first post-independence election is devoid of the frenzied electioneering and intense excitement of the pre-independence election of November 1989.

This is because the eight competing parties do not have the same amount of money to spend as they did in 1989 and the result of the contest is not in doubt.

In 1989 the two main parties, Swapo and the Democratic Turnhalle Alliance (DTA), were awash with funds from their backers in the international community and South Africa. The South African government secretly channelled at least

R100 million into Namibia in a vain bid to forestall a Swapo victory. The bulk of the R100 million went to the DTA.

The shortage of money is apparent in the relative dearth of election posters in the streets. Where lampposts were festooned with posters in 1989, most are unadorned for the present election.

In another sign of the times, Swapo posters urging voters to support the ruling party are in black and white, not colour.

Where the contest was closely fought in 1989, the result in the present two-day election is a foregone conclusion — a second victory for Sam Nujoma's Swapo. The question is not whether Swapo will return to power but whether it will be able to attain the two-thirds majority which eluded it in 1989.

In 1989 there was a 95 per-

cent poll, a reflection of the intense interest in the election.

Today the director of elections, Gerhard Totemeyer, anticipates a much lower poll. "I will be happy with a 70 percent poll," he says.

But that does not mean that the election is of mere academic interest to the just over 654 000 registered voters.

As the opposition parties, particularly the DTA, keep emphasising, if Swapo obtains a two-thirds majority it will be able to alter the constitution, including two key clauses — one which restricts the time any one person can occupy the presidential office to two five-year terms and another which guarantees payment of just compensation to the predominantly white farmers if their land is confiscated to appease black demands for more land.

Swapo looks set for victory at polls

WINDHOEK. — Namibians vote today and tomorrow in their first post-independence election, with the ruling Swapo widely expected to retain its substantial majority under President Sam Nujoma.

Voters at 760 polling stations will be asked to choose a new national assembly and cast their first direct votes for their head of state. President Sam

Nujoma was elected in 1989 by parliament. (221)

The elections directorate yesterday declared itself ready for the poll, despite complaints from the main opposition DTA that the electoral process was a "shambles".

There are eight parties registered for the first national election organised by Namibians.

et 7/12/94
Two have nominated presidential candidates: Mr Nujoma for Swapo and Mr Mishake Muyongo for the DTA.

Despite allegations that Swapo's use of state machinery to campaign makes the poll unfair, the DTA said yesterday it expected the voting to be free.

Voting officials and about 140 foreign observers have been

sent to the country's 13 regions to manage and monitor voting.

Analysts have said Swapo looks certain to win again as the opposition failed to join hands on alternative ideas and policies.

Swapo holds 42 of 72 parliamentary seats and with Mr Nujoma's popular appeal, the ruling party is widely expected to increase its majority. — Sapa

NEWS Former South Africans in

Voters flood poll stations

Sowetan 8/12/94

■ **VERY CALM** No report of conflict

or intimidation in election so far:

WINDHOEK — Namibians took advantage of a public holiday and swamped polling stations yesterday, queuing for hours to vote in post-independence parliamentary and presidential elections that are expected to return Swapo to power.

Both the ruling party and its main opposition Democratic Turnhalle Alliance expressed satisfaction with the voting, as observers credited Namibians with remarkable tolerance and patience.

"No major complaints," said DTA spokesman Mr Nico Smit. "It's unbelievable. People are so calm," added Swapo official Mr Sedi Garoseb.

Elections director Professor Gerhard Totemeyer said just two of the 750 polling stations failed to open at the 7am start, and that brisk voting had left officials scurrying to replenish ballot paper supplies.

No intimidation or conflict had been reported by 4pm yesterday. Totemeyer said higher than expected turn-out meant at least 60 percent of voters would have cast ballots on the first of the two days of voting.

Some people lined up from as early as

3am to cast their vote, but polling slowed to a trickle by midday in parts of the thinly-populated south and the Namib Desert towns of Usakos and Karib. Queues swelled to as long as 5km in some areas.

Thousands lined up in Walvis Bay, where many former South Africans cast their first votes for a Windhoek government.

A festive air prevailed in some queues, as voters brought deck chairs and picnic hampers and settled down for the long wait. (221)

President Sam Nujoma and his wife Kovambo were among the first to vote, casting their ballots with a broad smile in Windhoek's main Independence Avenue.

Urging voters to remain calm, Nujoma was confident of victory and said Swapo would use its majority to consolidate progress since independence five years ago, NAMBC radio news reported.

His only rival in the presidential race, the DTA's Mr Mishake Muyongo, made his cross at Katima Mulilo in his home Caprivi Region, followed by Swapo's Agriculture Minister Nangoloh Mbumba.

Namibians swamp poll stations (22)

08/12/94
WINDHOEK — Namibians swamped polling stations yesterday, queueing for hours to vote in post-independence parliamentary and presidential elections, expected to return Swapo to power.

Both the ruling party and its main opposition — the Democratic Turnhalle Alliance (DTA) — expressed satisfaction with the voting, as observers credited Namibians with remarkable tolerance and patience.

"No major complaints," said DTA spokesman Mr Nico Smit. "Its unbelievable. People are so calm," added Swapo official, Mr Sedi Garoseb.

Elections director Professor Gerhard Totemeyer said only two of the 750 polling stations failed to open at the 7am start. — Sapa

R63m for helicopters

WINDHOEK. — Namibia, whose major colonial debt has just been written off by South Africa, is spending nearly R63m on a new government jet and military helicopters, transport ministry and diplomatic sources said yesterday.

The government is buying a new US Learjet for about R22,75m.

Sources in the Indian High Commission confirmed the sale of helicopters from India for about R39,55m. — Sapa

Swapo all smiles as Namibians vote

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BD 8/12/94

WALVIS BAY — Namibians flocked to the polls yesterday to cast their ballots in a two-day general election likely to further entrench President Sam Nujoma's ruling South West African People's Organisation (Swapo).

Thousands began queueing before dawn, eager to vote in the first presidential and parliamentary elections since Swapo swept to power in UN-supervised elections in November 1989.

The election five years ago led to the country's independence from South Africa the following year.

Some of the 30 000 residents of this fishing port on the South Atlantic coast yesterday cast their first ballots ever for the Windhoek government.

South Africa acquired Walvis Bay in 1910 and the rest of Namibia from Germany at the end of First World War. The SA government initially hung on to the enclave after Namibia's independence, finally relinquishing control in March this year.

In the black township of Kuisebmond, outside Walvis Bay, some voters began queueing at 3am, four hours before the polls officially opened.

They were kept waiting for another half-hour while electoral officers cast their ballots before opening the doors to the public.

Fishermen came in to port to vote and immediately sailed out again for the day's catch.

"We started dead on time," an electoral officer in Kuisebmond said.

German Ambassador Hans Schumacher described the organisation of the election by Namibian officials as "excellent".

"It's all going according to European standards," he said. "They have done a tremendously good job in the preparations."

German-speaking Namibian elections director Gerhard Totemeyer "has organised it with typical German efficiency", Schumacher said.

Over two days, about 650 000 voters will choose from eight political parties and two presidential candidates: Nujoma and Mishake Muyongo of the Democratic Turnhalle Alliance.

Nujoma and Swapo are widely tipped to win the poll and improve on the 42 seats they already hold in the 72-seat parliament.

"It's an interesting development," said an election observer, who asked not to be named. "You have a perfectly democratic election and the outcome might be a one-party state by default."

The only black spot against the process, Schumacher said, was the opposition's lack of funds and the government's use of state facilities, such as vehicles and money, during the campaign.

"This happens everywhere in the world," he said. "The difference is that there is normally a fund for other parties to use during campaigning, but here you don't have that."

Swapo is still basking in its image as the party that led Namibia to peaceful independence and economic success.

The nation of 1.5-million people has a per capita income of \$1 700 — one of the highest in Africa — although this is heavily skewed in favour of the 80 000-strong white population.

Despite soaring crime, an expanding civil service and unemployment that has risen to 38% of the workforce, Swapo remains tremendously popular.

The sparsely-populated country relies heavily on its mineral wealth, although fishing is fast catching up as a foreign currency earner. — Sapa-AFP.

Windhoek places order for \$6,5m Lear jet

WINDHOEK — Namibia, which has just had a major debt written off by SA, was spending nearly \$18m on a new government jet and military helicopters, transport ministry and diplomatic sources said in Windhoek yesterday.

President Sam Nujoma's government was buying a new US Lear jet for about \$6,5m, said a source in the works, transport and communications ministry.

Sources in the Indian High Commission confirmed the government had agreed to

buy an unspecified number of helicopters from India for the Namibian Defence Force for around \$11,3m.

President Nelson Mandela said on Tuesday that SA had agreed to write off R700m owed by Namibia.

The transport ministry source said the government was trading in four propeller-driven planes to finance the Lear jet.

Namibia, twice the size of France, has a population of 1,5-million. — Sapa-Reuter.

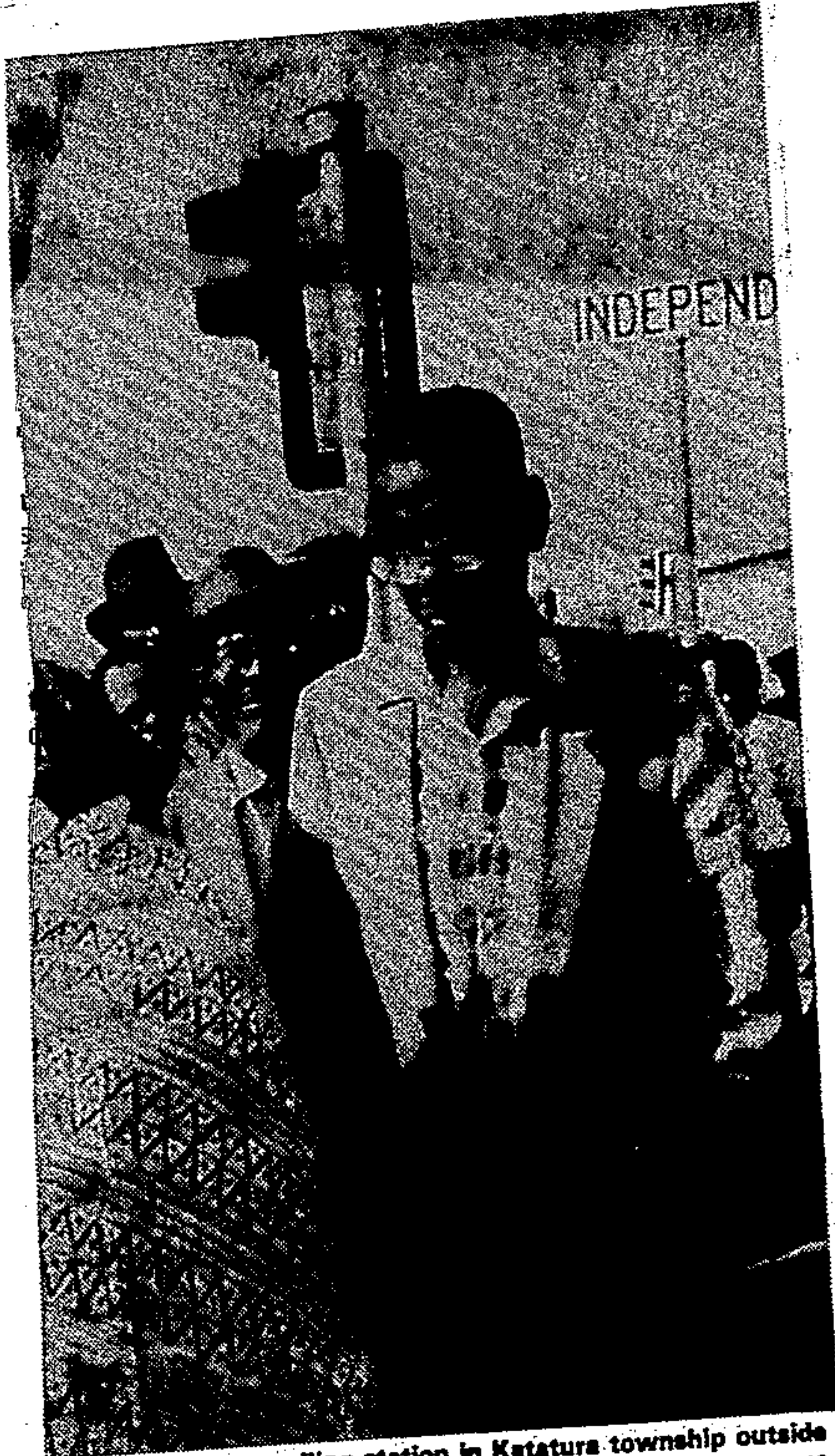
Comment: Page 18



A Herero woman in traditional dress waits patiently to vote in Windhoek yesterday.

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8/12/94



vote outside the polling station in Katatura township outside
Picture: AP

Friday, December 9 1994 ★

Namibian poll result in doubt DTA may reject result

221 279/12/94

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WINDHOEK. — Namibia's opposition leader Mr Mishake Muyongo warned yesterday his Democratic Turnhalle Alliance (DTA) party might not accept results of this week's national elections unless the electoral commission adopted procedures to ensure there was no foul play.

In a statement last night, Mr Muyongo said all unused ballot papers should be reconciled with those used to cast votes in the two-day presidential and parliamentary elections.

All ballot papers should also be available for inspection in the presence of political parties and international observers.

These demands, he said, followed the failure of the electoral commission to provide parties with a list of numbers of ballot papers and the polling stations they were sent to.

The DTA alleged that as many as 50 000 people, representing eight parliamentary seats, had duplicate voter registration cards which could lead to fraud.

DTA spokesman Mr Nico Smit also claimed that up to 30% of DTA supporters had not received their registration cards in

time to vote. This was "absolutely unacceptable", he said.

Counting of votes starts today, with the first results due this afternoon.

Voting dwindled to a trickle across Namibia yesterday, the second day of polling and organisers said all polling stations closed on schedule at 9pm.

Polling stations in the populous north, which were swamped by voters on Wednesday and ran out of voting material, were quiet by midday yesterday, said the Omusati region Swapo election mobiliser, Mr Martin Aram.

The elections directorate said it had successfully airlifted the necessary materials to the north and Caprivi region, and that voting had gone smoothly across the country.

Just one incident of violence, in which a policeman was slightly injured, was reported in two days of polling.

"We have no reports of serious crime," a police spokesman said.

At Aminuis, a remote village in the southwest, a policeman fired a warning shot and arrested a man who attacked him while the policeman was removing party election posters from near a polling station. — Sapa

ARG. 10/11/94

Swapo in Namibia poll lead

WINDHOEK. — President Sam Nujoma and his ruling Swapo party opened a substantial lead last night as results came in from Namibia's first post-independence election.

Initial results announced by election officials showed Mr Nujoma leading his rival Mishake Muyongo of the Democratic Turnhalle Alliance (DTA) by almost 72% to 28% after 30 of the 95 main counting centres had reported.

In parliamentary votes Swapo had received 60% against 27% for the DTA. The United Democratic Front was trailing with 6.6%.

Mr Nujoma and Swapo won convincingly in Walvis Bay, which was re-incorporated into Namibia in March. South Africa retained control of the enclave when Namibia obtained independence in 1990.

Mr Nujoma led Swapo in a bush war against South African rule of the territory. Independence was agreed in a deal linked to the withdrawal of Cuban troops from neighbouring Angola.

"In the presidential contest in Walvis Bay candidate Nujoma received 7 520 votes and candidate Muyongo 2 520," said chairman of the Directorate of Elections, Gerhard Töttemeyer.

In Mr Muyongo's stronghold along the Caprivi strip he was leading Mr Nujoma although not all constituencies had finished counting.

Electoral officials said the turnout in the election ranged from 50% to 70%, compared with the 90% turn-out in the 1989 pre-independence vote.

Commonwealth observers and those from the association of Eu-

ropean parliamentarians said the poll had been free and fair. "Conditions existed for a free and fair election. During our stay we did not observe any intimidation by any of the groups," the 42-member Commonwealth Observer Group said in a statement.

Political analysts and Western diplomats said Swapo was on its way to an overwhelming victory. The victory margin would increase when results came in from its stronghold in the Ovambo region in the north.

Namibians awaiting full results from the poll were certain Mr Nujoma and Swapo would win, but said this time they would have to deliver on campaign promises.

"We gave Swapo 4½ years to show us they want to improve our lives. Those years and months were enough for them to know what we want. After this win, they must deliver," said Katutura township resident Goliath Maasdorp.

"Swapo gave us peace and stability. After this election it must give us jobs, houses and curb the crime rate," said white businessman Maxwell Stopforth.

Mr Nujoma said he and his party were aware of the challenges. "We have laid the foundations of democracy by ensuring there is peace and stability. We know what our people's priorities are and we will address those needs accordingly," he said after casting his ballot on the first of the two days of voting. — Reuter.

Mr Nujoma said he and his party were aware of the challenges. "We have laid the foundations of democracy by ensuring there is peace and stability. We know what our people's priorities are and we will address those needs accordingly," he said after casting his ballot on the first of the two days of voting. — Reuter.

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SWAPO leader wins

presidential vote

Nujoma heads for landslide

WINDHOEK — Sam Nujoma's ruling SWAPO party was last night heading for a decisive win in Namibia's first post-independence election, judging by early results.

But whether SWAPO would attain a two-thirds majority in the 72-member National Assembly was still in doubt.

Early provisional results showed that SWAPO had won 58 percent of the vote against 30 percent for the Democratic Turnhalle Alliance (DTA) in elections for the National Assembly.

In the presidential election — which was contested at the same time as the parliamentary election — Nujoma had built up an unbeatable lead of 71 percent of the vote against 27 percent for the DTA leader Mishake Muyongo.

The presidential results confirmed the prediction of Andre du Pisani, of the University of Namibia. His forecast was that Nujoma would attract a bigger share of the vote than the party which he joined 35 years ago.

Nujoma, a man with a flowing, white, patriarchal beard and a broad, engaging smile, is a popular president. Whatever faults SWAPO might have committed during its first five years in power, Nujoma is not blamed for them by

Star 10/12/94
SWAPO is on course for the two-thirds majority needed to rewrite the Namibian constitution, says PATRICK LAURENCE of the Foreign News Service.

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most Namibians, particularly those in the densely populated Owamboland where support for SWAPO is strongest.

The failure of SWAPO to capture two-thirds of the early vote does not mean it will not achieve that target when the final results are totalled.

In the 1989 election — in which SWAPO won 57 percent of the vote compared with 28 percent for the DTA — the DTA was actually in the lead until the results of Owamboland came to turn the tide decisively in SWAPO's favour.

If that pattern repeats itself, then SWAPO's 58 percent may grow into 67 percent (the percentage of the vote which SWAPO won in the 1992 regional elections).

A two-thirds majority in the National Assembly — where SWAPO held 42 seats to 21 for the DTA when the assembly was

dissolved — will enable Nujoma to alter the constitution, including the clause limiting occupancy of the presidency to two five-year terms. Nujoma implicitly called on Namibians to give him a two-thirds majority when he exhorted them to "bury the opposition".

As votes continued to pour in, the Association of European Parliamentarians yesterday declared the poll to be free and fair and the best it had seen in Africa. "The elections were completely free and, in my opinion, completely fair," David Morris, a British member of the European Parliament, said.

A Reuter report from Windhoek said Namibians were certain Nujoma and SWAPO would win but this time it would have to deliver on campaign promises.

"We gave SWAPO four-and-a-half years to show us they want to improve our lives. Those years and months were enough for them to know what we want. After this win, they must deliver," said Katurura township resident Goliath Maasdorp.

"SWAPO gave us peace and stability. After this election it must give us jobs, houses and curb the crime rate," said businessman Maxwell Stopforth.

Swapo wins two-thirds majority at polls

By JOHN GROBLER
Windhoek

PRESIDENT Sam Nujoma and his ruling Swapo swept the board in the Namibian elections last week, clinching an emphatic two-thirds parliamentary majority needed to rewrite the country's constitution.

Boosted by a massive ethnic vote, Mr Nujoma drew nearly 72 percent of the presidential vote. His

opponent, Mishake Muyongo, of the DTA, could muster only 22 percent.

Mr Nujoma thanked Namibians for their "overwhelming support", and promised to tackle the country's social and economic weaknesses.

"We are fighters. We are manufacturing weapons and ammunition against the new enemies... they are poverty, hunger, disease

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and ignorance," he said yesterday at the opening of a new casino, in which Swapo has a substantial stake.

With the results from two northern constituencies still outstanding, Swapo had gained 52 out of 72 parliamentary seats.

The United Democratic Front could retain only a parliamentary seat — 2,8 percent of the vote — with more spoilt ballots

11/2/94
returned than votes for the other five parties.

Mr Muyongo said yesterday he would refuse to recognise the results as they stood then. Citing numerous irregularities in the ballot distribution system, he warned of a one-party state (221)

Observers, however, said the elections, the first since independence in 1989, were free and fair.

ARG. 12/12/94

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Nujoma pledges new poll on constitution

WINDHOEK. — President Sam Nujoma, whose party looks likely to win a two thirds majority in the Namibian elections, has pledged to call a referendum before changing the independence constitution.

He told Namibian Broadcasting Corporation news yesterday that Swapo's politburo would decide whether the constitution should be changed and then consult the country.

Swapo and Mr Nujoma swept aside the opposition in the two-day poll and, with all provisional results announced, scored more than 70 percent in presidential and parliamentary elections. This gives it the power in the national assembly to amend the constitution unilaterally.

Final results, expected today after the counting of up to 100 000 tender votes, was likely to follow the earlier trend,

election organisers said.

Mr Nujoma, speaking in the coastal resort of Swakopmund, called on all Namibians, including the opposition, to work together to combat poverty, hunger, disease and ignorance in the interests of the nation.

Education and unemployment would be his government's priorities for the next five years, he said.

With provisional results outstanding from one constituency, Mr Nujoma had polled 71.5 percent of votes to serve what the independence constitution states must be his last term of office.

Analysts have suggested that Swapo could be keen to amend that clause to allow Mr Nujoma to run for president again in 1999.

Opposition leader Mishake Muyongo polled 25.8 percent in the presidential election. His DTA party had by yesterday

polled 22.3 percent, with the United Democratic Front trailing with 2.81 percent.

A victorious Mr Nujoma thanked Namibians for their "overwhelming support" and promised to tackle the country's social and economic weaknesses.

"We are fighters. We are manufacturing weapons and ammunition against the new enemies... they are poverty, hunger, disease and ignorance," he said.

Election director Gerhard Totemeyer expressed satisfaction with the election process, saying he expected the final turnout to exceed 70 percent. "Forecasts of voter apathy did not materialise," he said.

The Namibian parliament is likely to have just three parties next year — Swapo, the DTA and the UDF.

Observers said proportional seat allocations could narrowly

give one of the 72 seats to the Monitor Action Group, a lobby for group rights and ethnic identity.

MAG leader Kosie Pretorius said he did not expect to go to parliament. But his struggle for recognition of separate languages, culture and identity would continue.

A European parliamentary group said the elections were free and fair and showed the way for democracy in Africa.

Walvis Bay voters, some voting for a Windhoek government for the first time since the harbour enclave became Namibian in February, gave Swapo 73 percent and Mr Nujoma 62 percent.

Political analysts said voters appeared to have showed strong loyalty to Swapo, the former guerrilla movement many credit with liberating Namibia from South African control. — Sapa.

Landslide Poll Victory for Swapo

CT 12/12/99



LANDSLIDE . . . Two Namibian election officials work through the night to help count thousands of ballots in Windhoek in the country's first general election since independence. The woman wears traditional Herero dress. The results are expected today and Swapo is set to win a two-thirds majority.

Picture: AP

WINDHOEK. — President Sam Nujoma, whose party looks likely to win a two-thirds majority after elections last week, yesterday pledged to call a referendum of all Namibians before changing the independence constitution.

He told Namibian Broadcasting Corporation news that Swapo's politburo would decide on whether the constitution should be changed and then consult the country.

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Elections director Professor Gerhard Totemeyer expressed satisfaction with the whole election process, saying he expected the final turnout to exceed 70%. "Forecasts of voter apathy did not materialise."

The Namibian parliament looks likely to have just three parties next year, Swapo, the DTA and the UDF.

Constituencies

A European parliamentary group on Friday said the elections were free and fair, and showed the way for democracy in Africa. They had high praise for Namibia's elections directorate and the tolerance displayed by the thousands of voters who lined up to vote this week.

Political analysts said Namibians appeared to have voted on ethnic lines. With Swapo's Owambo support base in four northern regions making up more than 60% of the population, the ruling party had a "built-in majority", said Professor Herbert Welland, a political scientist from Germany's University of Freiland.

● See Page 8

Nujoma pledge to Namibians

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Nujoma pledges referendum before changing Namibia's constitution

Landslide for Swapo

Star 12/12/94

NAMIBIA'S ruling party seems certain of two-thirds majority in first post-independence polls

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Windhoek — Namibian President Sam Nujoma, whose ruling Swapo party looks assured of a two-thirds majority in parliament after the first post-independence polls, pledged yesterday to consult the nation before changing the constitution.

"No individual will decide whether the constitution needs changing, all Namibians will ultimately decide," Nujoma told reporters in Swakopmund.

The two-thirds parliamentary majority, if confirmed when final results are announced today, gives Swapo the right to unilaterally amend the constitution that it believes favours opposition parties.

Postal ballots were still being counted yesterday, but political analysts said that with more than 70 percent of the postal vote going to Swapo, compared to 22 percent for the opposition Democratic Turnhalle Alliance (DTA), the ruling party's grip on power had tightened.

With 80 out of 95 counting centres declaring results, Swapo had captured 66,8 percent of the vote compared to the 25 percent of the DTA.

Nujoma, leader of the pre-1990 struggle for independence from South Africa, held a similar lead in the presidential race — 69 percent to 28 percent over the DTA's Mishake Muyongo, his only opponent.

Political analysts said they expected Swapo to maintain if not increase its lead when the results from the remaining centres came in. Most are in Swapo's northern Owambo stronghold.

Swapo wants a two-thirds majority in the 72-seat national assembly to rewrite the country's independence constitution and enable Nujoma to serve a third term.

Political scientist Andre du Pisani told state television: "The loyalty towards the (Swapo) party and the personality (of Nujoma) is very evident in the north... the other parties are slipping badly. Swapo seems to be going alone in this election."

Electoral officials said indications were that between 55 and 65 percent of the 650 000 registered voters had cast ballots, compared to a 90 percent turnout in the 1989 pre-independence vote.

Analysts said apathy had set in among Namibians because the 1994 poll was not a "liberation election". They said the DTA had been unable to shed its image of close association with Pretoria's past apartheid rulers.

Commonwealth observers and those from the Association of European Parliamentarians said the poll had been free and fair.

Residents of the capital Windhoek took the announcement of the initial results calmly and there were no signs of celebration in the streets.

Many Namibians did not know what a two-thirds majority meant or what it would do for their government.

"I do not know what you are talking about," said hotel waitress Salome Mootse. — Sapa-Reuter.

Swapo sweeps polls

221

WINDHOEK — A victorious President Sam Nujoma arrived home in Windhoek in Namibia yesterday to say his overwhelming election victory was an expres-

sion of trust and confidence in his ruling Swapo party.

Final results of Namibia's two-day presidential and parliamentary elections last week were due last night, but provisional tallies give Nujoma and Swapo more than 70 percent of the vote. Its new majority gives the party the power in parliament to change the constitution, which Nujoma said could not be expected to continue forever without amendment.

"The constitution is a document which always has to be amended in the interests of the people," he said, but he pledged to consult Namibians through a referendum if his government wanted to make changes.

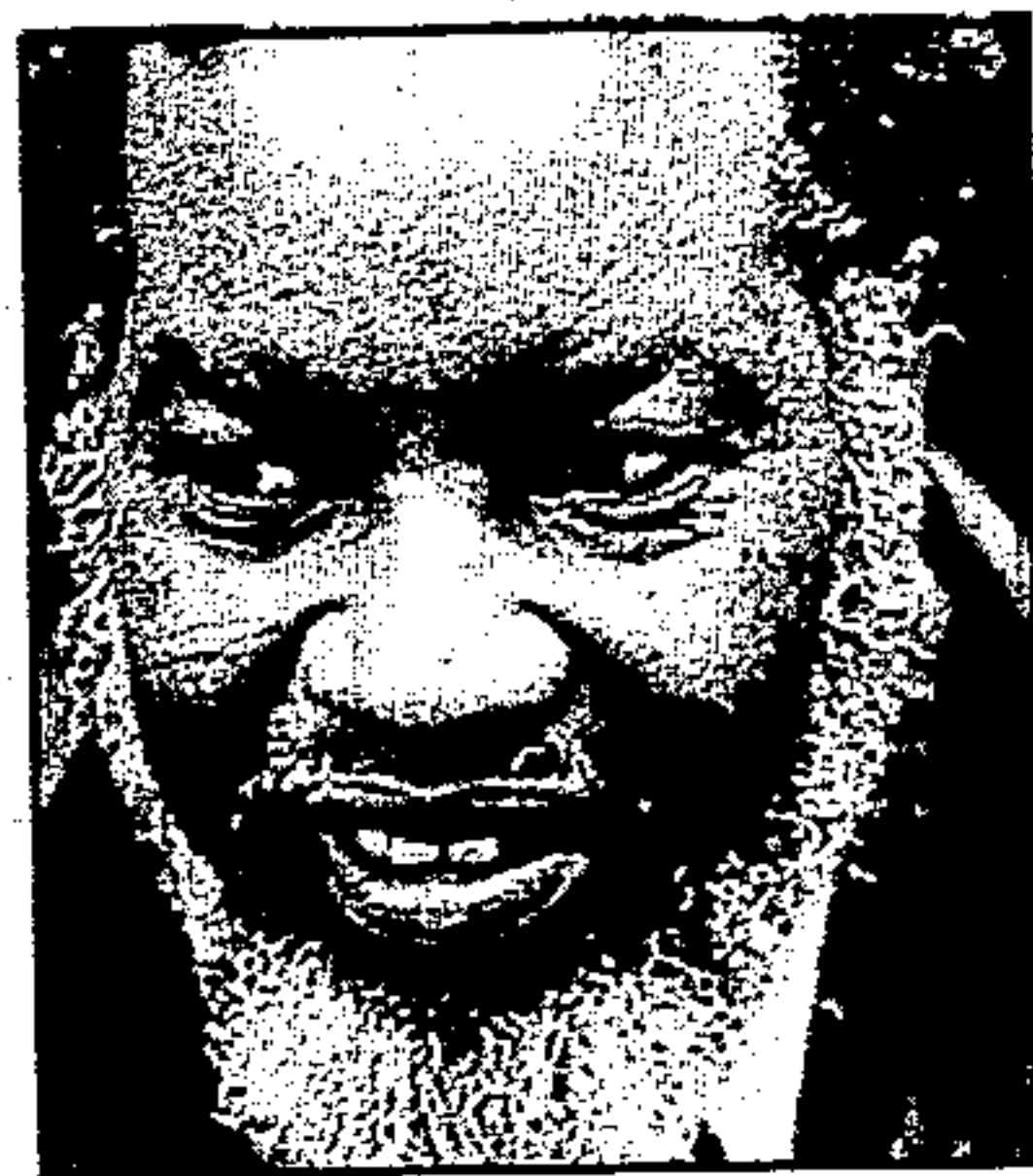
"As democrats who brought freedom and

■ **SEEK MANDATE** Referendum would be

held before changing constitution — Nujoma:

independence to this country we will go to the Namibian people to seek their mandate if there are clauses which need to be changed. There is no constitution which remains forever."

Swapo's four years and eight months in power since independence had given it the opportunity to assess Namibia's economy and resources and the focus in future would be on fishing, food production and education, Nujoma said. "For the next five years we will concentrate on agriculture, animal husbandry and marine resources. Education will remain a priority. We have uneducated and untrained manpower, which we inherited from apartheid colonialism." without trained and skilled people,"



President Sam Nujoma

Nujoma sees poll result as 'an expression of trust'

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"As democrats who brought freedom and independence to this country we will go to the Namibian people to seek their mandate if there are clauses which need to be changed. There is no constitution which remains forever."

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had given it the opportunity to assess Namibia's economy and resources and the focus in future would be on fishing, food production and education, Nujoma said.

"For the next five years we will concentrate on agriculture, animal husbandry and marine resources.

"Education will remain a priority. We have uneducated and untrained manpower which we inherited from apartheid colonialism and we cannot talk about development without trained and skilled people," he said.

Swapo's economic planning was intended to make Namibia self-sufficient in food production and add value to its raw materials.

Nujoma said his government planned to establish a copper processing plant "so we can produce cable wire, radio and televisions".

Government would also concentrate on providing better health care, housing and drinking water.

Namibia's United Democratic Front yesterday claimed there was "prevalent intimidation" in the country's elections last week and said it was not yet ready to accept the poll was free and fair.

Provisional results gave the UDF 2,87% of the parliamentary vote,

(221) BD 13/12/94
which would reduce its national assembly seats from four to two.

The ruling Swapo party won with more than 70% against 22% for the main opposition DTA.

UDF leader Justus Garoeb said intimidation was prevalent, particularly in the populous north where Swapo polled more than 90% in spite of an "enthusiastic reception" for the UDF during pre-election campaigns.

The presence of armed soldiers at voting points further intimidated voters, he claimed.

"These points cast doubt over the freeness and fairness of the elections and the UDF reserves its position until we are fully satisfied with reconciliation of voting material."

Garoeb claimed polling officials were clearly biased in favour of Swapo; control over ballot papers was poor or non-existent; and electioneering was permitted within 500m of voting stations in breach of electoral rules.

Party agents were not allowed to observe freely, he said.

In the pre-election campaign, the UDF said, state funds and pro-Swapo civil servants were misused by the ruling party and its candidates. — Sapa.

Swapo wins 72,7% in Namibian poll

Star

14/12/94

Windhoek — Final results in Namibia's first post-independence election gave the ruling Swapo party of President Sam Nujoma 72,72 percent of the vote and 53 of 72 parliamentary seats, elections director Professor Gerhard Totemeyer announced last night.

Electoral Commission chairman Judge-President Johan Strydom said Nujoma had been re-elected president with a 76,3 percent majority.

His rival candidate from the main opposition DTA polled 23,6 percent. The DTA won 15 seats with 20,4 percent of the vote.

Strydom said the announcement had gone ahead despite protests from the DTA, because the Electoral Act did not

give election organisers power to delay election results. (221)

A probe had already been launched by election organisers after four constituencies polled more votes than registered voters, but Strydom later ruled that his officials had no power to open and inspect ballot boxes.

The United Democratic Front won two parliamentary seats with its 2,68 percent of the national assembly vote, with one seat each for the Monitor Action Group and the Democratic Coalition of Namibia.

There was a 76,05 percent poll in the national assembly election, Totemeyer said. — Sapa.

Nujoma - bush warrior who presides over

Arg. 15/2/84 (22)

Dateline: WINDHOEK

SAM Nujoma, re-elected as president of Namibia, discarded his guerrilla uniform at independence four years ago to take the helm of one of Africa's most peaceful and stable states.

Since taking over the reins of power on March 21, 1990, Mr Nujoma has preached reconciliation after a 23-year bush war to escape the yoke of apartheid South Africa. He said in a recent interview that Namibians had enjoyed peace and stability since 1990.

"Our country is no longer a pariah state... but we must meet the challenges of providing our citizens with jobs, houses and clean water," he said.

Most Namibians see Mr Nujoma as the only politician who could unite the 1.5 million people from a range of cultures and tribes in a desert territory twice the size of France.

Some openly declared they were going to vote for him and not for his party, Swapo, which was returned to power in elections last

week with a sharply increased majority.

"Nujoma is the only person who can rule Namibia. I do not like some of his colleagues within Swapo. They are corrupt," said a voter in a typical comment.

While Mr Nujoma is seen as a peacemaker and conciliator, even his supporters feel his government had not done enough to create jobs, curb the rising crime rate and attract foreign investment.

"Of course law and order is of great concern. We need to create a socio-economic environment to remove these evils. We have a responsibility to ensure crime does not go unpunished," Mr Nujoma said.

During three decades of exile, Mr Nujoma roamed foreign capitals to convince the world Swapo represented the true voice of his homeland, ruled from abroad for more than a century.

He returned home in triumph in 1989 to lead Swapo to a convincing victory in UN-sponsored elections.

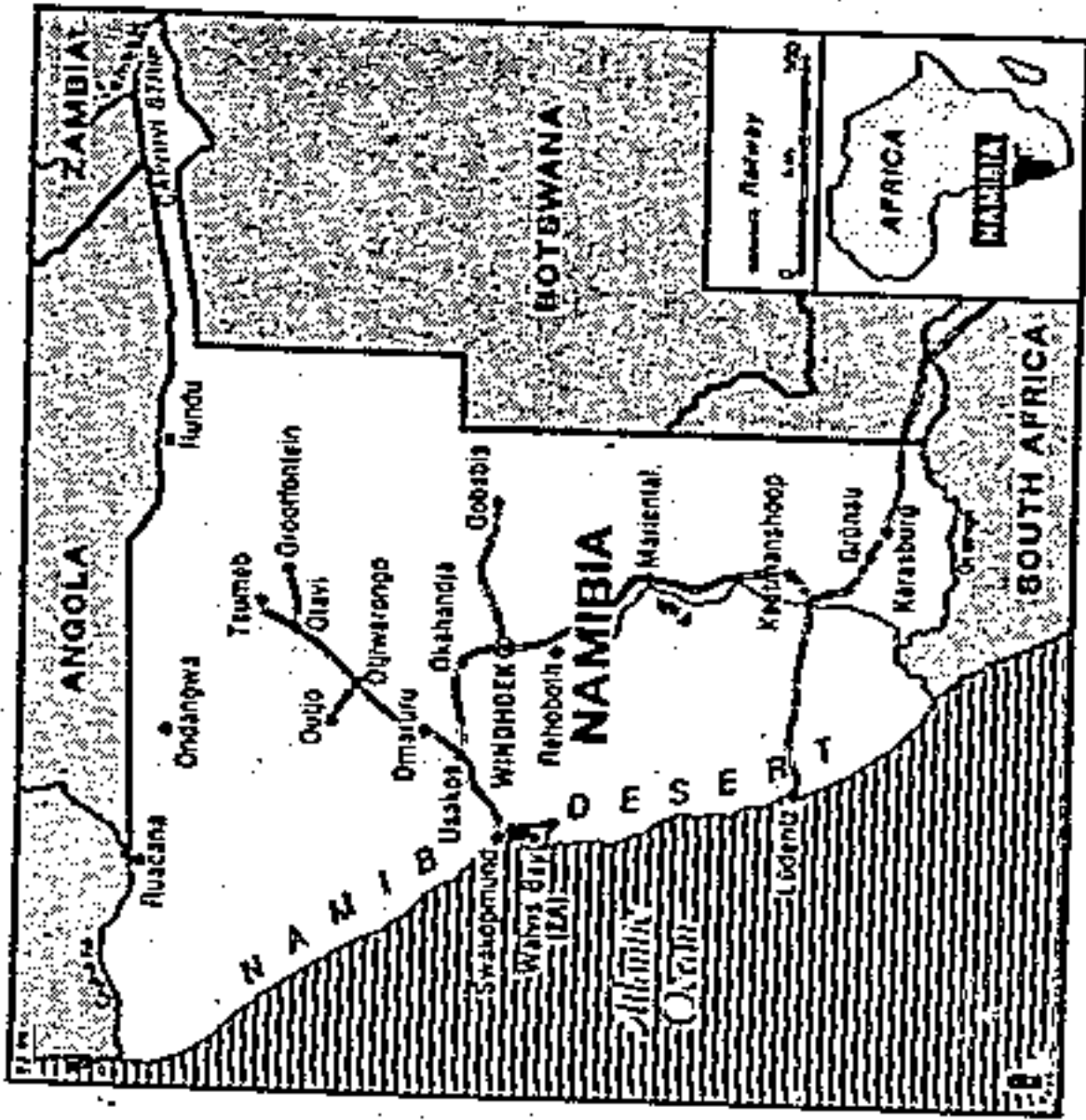
Mr Nujoma's claim on the presidency was bolstered during the



Sam Nujoma

election campaign by the abandonment of the hardline Marxist platform he expounded during his years in exile in favour of a constitution regarded as one of Africa's most liberal.

He was a regular visitor to the Kremlin and the Nordic capitals during his exile and these friends made him one of the most promi-



nent of southern Africa's guerrilla leaders.

His enforced absence from the country after fleeing abroad in 1960 raised his status among Swapo supporters, but disaffected members of the guerrilla movement painted a different picture.

Former lieutenant and fellow

guerrilla Mishake Muyongo, now leader of the opposition Democratic Turnhalle Alliance, said Mr Nujoma had failed to improve the lives of his fellow Namibians.

"He is corrupt, tribalistic and surrounded by crooks," Mr Muyongo said.

Shafiishuna Samuel Nujoma was born on May 12, 1929, in the farming district of Owambo near Ango-la. In the late 1950s he joined other Owambos in a Cape Town barber's shop to organise resistance against South Africa's apartheid labour laws.

In 1957 they formed the Owambo-land People's Congress to fight the iniquities of a contract labour system which forced blacks to move hundreds of kilometres to work for months at a time under draconian conditions for white masters.

The resistance campaign, including a boycott of municipal services, led to a clash between blacks and police in December 1959 in which 13 blacks were killed.

Mr Nujoma, who is married and

has three sons and a daughter, was arrested after the battle but fled the country in February 1960 after being released on bail.

Swapo launched its bush war after South Africa defied the United Nations and refused to relinquish the mandate to rule Namibia it was granted during World War 1.

Mr Nujoma's greatest diplomatic triumph was when Swapo gained UN observer status and was declared "the sole and authentic representative of the Namibian people", a coup which infuriated anti-apartheid Swapo opponents.

An end to stalemate over Namibia's future was seen in 1988, when South Africa, Cuba and Angola signed an independence accord, tacitly accepted by Swapo.

The agreement paved the way for Namibian independence under a massive UN supervisory operation in exchange for withdrawal of 50 000 Cuban troops from Angola, a force which Pretoria said was a potential threat to peace in the region.

Reuter

peace

Nujoma reaps second victory

W/maile 15-25/12/94 (221)

Graham Hopwood in Windhoek

NAMIBIA'S main opposition party, the Democratic Turnhalle Alliance, labelled the country "an ethnic democracy" this week after Swapo won a landslide. The charges of voting along ethnic lines came amid allegations of voter fraud in the populous north of the country and delays in the announcement of the final result.

Eventually released on Tuesday night (five days after polling closed) complete results showed Swapo sweeping the polls with 73 percent of the National Assembly vote. The DTA trailed in second place for the parliamentary ballot with 20 percent. The United Democratic Front had just over a two percent share and gained two seats while the conservative white-based Monitor Action Group and the Democratic Coalition of Namibia managed one seat each.

The only contender to face off against President Sam Nujoma, the DTA's Mishake Muyongo, had gained 24 percent support to the Swapo father-figure's massive 76 percent backing.

The announcement of the final results was made despite claims of gross irregularities from the DTA which called for an investigation into polling in every constituency.

The Commission conceded irregularities in four northern constituencies. Chairman of the Electoral Commission, Judge Johan Strydom, announced the votes had exceeded the number of registered voters in the constituencies — all situated in Swapo's stronghold of Owambo.

Although Director of Elections, Professor Gerhard Totemeyer played down the significance of the irregularities, saying only 1 000 votes were involved, the DTA was quick to claim that fraud was much more widespread. Such claims can only be tested in court according to Namibian law.

The DTA charged Swapo's support was mainly an ethnic one with the Oshiwambo-speaking people of the northern border area providing the backbone of the party's support.

"It (Swapo) only succeeded in getting 20 percent of its votes outside Owambo and Kavango," said DTA president, Mishake Muyongo. "The DTA is seriously concerned that this



Presidential poll: Namibia's leader Sam Nujomo casts his ballot before winning the election this week

PHOTOGRAPH: ADIL BRADLOW/AP

election has shown the country to be divided along ethnic lines, and that we are now an ethnic democracy."

The DTA were limited to a handful of votes in most constituencies in the north where Swapo maintained and even increased its dominance.

The party claimed it was the only one which had broad support, however much of its vote in the rest of Namibia could also be attributed to ethnic loyalties.

The DTA did well in the Otjiherero-speaking areas of the east where its fourth candidate on the party list for the National Assembly, Kuaima Riruako, claims to be Paramount Chief.

In addition the DTA claimed the Caprivi region — Muyongo's home base, although Swapo and Nujoma won it its main town of Katima Mulimo. The UDF vote came predominantly from the Damara-speaking

areas of western Namibia where the party's leader, Justus Garoab, is self-proclaimed tribal king.

However, probably more important than ethnicity as a factor in the election was many Namibians' continued regard for Swapo as the liberation movement which brought independence, and its rejection of the DTA with its links to apartheid colonialism.

The new parliament will feature five parties — Swapo with 53 seats, the DTA with 15, the UDF with two and the DCN and MAG with one each.

Swapo will now have 12 more MPs than before and a two-thirds majority. This allows the party to change the Constitution unilaterally, although Nujoma this week pledged that clauses will only be amended after a referendum has been held. The Electoral Commission announced a turnout of 76 percent.

Sam Nujoma: man of reconciliation

(22) BDIS/12/94

WINDHOEK — Sam Nujoma, re-elected President of Namibia, discarded his guerrilla uniform at independence four years ago to take the helm of one of Africa's most peaceful and stable states.

Since taking over the reins of power on March 21 1990, Nujoma has preached reconciliation after a 23-year bush war to escape the yoke of SA.

He said last month that Namibians had enjoyed peace and stability since 1990.

"But we must meet the challenges of providing our citizens with jobs, houses and clean water."

Most Namibians see Nujoma as the only politician who could unite the 1.5-million people from a range of different cultures and tribes.

"Nujoma is the only person who can rule Namibia. I do not like some of his colleagues within Swapo. They are corrupt," said a voter in a typical comment.

While Nujoma is seen as a peacemaker and conciliator, even his supporters feel his government has not done enough to create jobs, curb the rising crime rate and attract foreign investment.

Nujoma said: "Of course law and order is of great concern. We need to create a socioeconomic environment to remove these evils. We have a responsibility to ensure crime does not go unpunished."

During three decades of exile, Nujoma roamed foreign capitals to convince the world Swapo represented the true voice of his homeland, ruled from abroad for more than a century. He returned home in triumph in 1989 to lead Swapo to a convincing victory in UN-sponsored elections.

Nujoma's claim on the presidency was bolstered during the election campaign by the abandonment of the hardline Marxist platform he expounded during his years in exile in favour of a constitution considered to be one of Africa's most liberal.

He was a regular visitor to the Kremlin

and the Nordic capitals during his exile, and these friends made him one of southern Africa's most prominent guerrilla leaders in world eyes.

His enforced absence from the country after fleeing abroad in 1960 raised his status among Swapo supporters, but disaffected members of the guerrilla movement painted a different picture.

Former lieutenant and fellow guerrilla Mishake Muyongo, now leader of the opposition Democratic Turnhalle Alliance, said Nujoma had failed to improve the lives of his fellow Namibians.

He was tribalistic and "surrounded by crooks", Muyongo said.

Shafiishuna Samuel Nujoma was born on May 12 1929, in the farming district of Ovamboland, near Angola. In the late 1950s he joined other Ovambos in a Cape Town barber's shop to organise resistance to SA's apartheid labour laws. In 1957, they formed the Ovamboland People's Congress to fight the contract labour system.

The resistance campaign, including a boycott of municipal services, led to a clash between blacks and police in December 1959 in which 13 blacks were killed.

Nujoma, who is married and has three sons and a daughter, was arrested after the battle but fled the country in February 1960 after being released on bail.

Swapo launched its bush war after SA defied the UN and refused to relinquish the mandate to rule Namibia it was granted during the First World War.

Nujoma's greatest diplomatic triumph was when Swapo gained UN observer status and was declared "the sole and authentic representative of the Namibian people" — a coup which infuriated anti-apartheid Swapo opponents.

In 1988 SA, Cuba and Angola signed an independence accord, tacitly accepted by Swapo. The agreement paved the way for Namibian independence. — Sapa-Reuter.

NAMIBIA *Fun 16/12/94*
Challenges ahead

Namibia's ruling Swapo party, having won more than the two-thirds majority that eluded it in the elections for independence five years ago, now has the clout to change the national constitution single-handedly — if it wants. (221)

There is no reason why a constitution should not be amended if it is to be improved, says President Sam Nujoma. But he promises that any such proposals will be subject to a referendum.

Nujoma has not spelt out his intentions but the proposed constitutional changes might turn out to be much less significant than some alarmist media and opposition groups like to make out.

Analysts expect one proposed amendment would be to increase the limit on consecutive presidential terms from two to three. As it stands, Nujoma (66) has just begun his second, and last, five-year term. The bearded former guerrilla chief, a tee-totaller and regular exerciser, is reported to be in good health. A constitutionally enforced change of presidency in 1999 would surely provoke a damaging party succession struggle, says Africa Institute analyst Richard Cornwell.

Other expected amendment proposals could be abolition of the death penalty and dissolution of the National Council, or second house of parliament, which has done little to justify its existence since its establishment after the 1992 regional elections.

But there are far greater challenges facing Namibia in the medium to long term — economic as well as political — than the current emphasis on constitution-changing suggests.

Currently, the desert nation's economy looks good. Economic growth is thought to have been 5% this year, bolstered by an upswing in commodity prices for exports and a more stable uranium market, says Sanlam chief economist Johan Louw. A slight slowdown in mining production in

Fun 16/12/94
the nondiamond and uranium sectors and fishing industry next year could slow growth to around 3%, he adds.

But the country's economic structure gives the greatest cause for concern. Louw says capital stock in the manufacturing sector is declining when it should be expanding, the country is overly dependent on the primary sector, foreign investment has been disappointing and State interference in the economy is increasing. This is expected to accelerate as government steps up attempts to channel more funds to the poor and burgeoning unemployed.

Politically speaking, there is no notable opposition to Swapo — which, paradoxically, is a source of great concern to the government. Swapo wants to avoid at all costs the appearance of heading a one-party State, despite claims to the contrary by leaders of the main opposition DTA. The DTA won little more than 21% of this month's poll and is now no more than a shrivelled husk of the anti-Swapo front that Pretoria helped form and fund in the Seventies and Eighties. (221)

Adding to Swapo's worries is the fact that it has been unable to bridge effectively the ethnic divisions in the country, and cannot shake the impression — reinforced by ethnic clustering in the election — of being a party of the Ovambos, by far the largest tribal grouping in the nation. ■

NAMIBIA - GENERAL POLITICS

1995

Namibia buys second jet

Windhoek — The Namibian government finally confirmed yesterday that it has bought a second executive jet, after vigorously denying the costly purchase for several weeks.

Prime Minister Hage Geingob told public radio that the government had bought a Lear jet to add to the controversial presidential jet, a French-manufactured Falcon 900B, bought in 1992. (221)

The Lear jet is expected to cost in the region of R20 million, while the Falcon cost R80 million. ~~AA~~ STON 13/1/95

Ministry of Transport officials spent two months denying that Namibia was purchasing a second government jet after the leader of the main opposition Democratic Turnhalle Alliance, Mishake Muyongo, said in December that the jet had been

bought.

Namibia last month held its first general and presidential elections since independence from South Africa in 1990, returning to power with an increased majority the ruling South West Africa People's Organisation of President Sam Nujoma.

Irresponsible

The Lear jet purchase comes as Namibia is facing its second severe drought in two years.

The government has estimated that an additional R3,2 billion will be needed for drought relief.

The purchase of Nujoma's Falcon in 1992, also in the face of severe drought, led the Swedish and Norwegian governments to suspend drought aid after they called the buying of the aircraft irresponsible. — Sapa-AFP.

DTA appeals to court on ⁽²²⁾ poll results

WINDHOEK — Namibia's opposition leader, Democratic Turnhalle Alliance (DTA) president Mishake Muyongo, said yesterday that the survival of democracy and the rule of law in Namibia hinged on the outcome of the DTA's court challenge to last year's election results.

The DTA has petitioned the Windhoek High Court for access to election material and ballot boxes from three northern constituencies where more votes were cast than voters registered in the December 7-8 poll last year.

The case was due to begin in Windhoek yesterday after the government declared its intention to oppose the application.

Muyongo told a news briefing that his party, which won 15 of the 72 parliamentary seats, believed the entire election was fraudulent, but would first concentrate on alleged irregularities in the north.

He said the DTA had witnesses to testify about alleged irregularities in northern Namibia, Swapo's main power base where the ruling party polled more than 90%.

Muyongo said the DTA's aim was to bring about justice and the rule of law, to consolidate democracy and do away with fraudulent methods of running elections. 30813/95

He said DTA lawyers were studying a statement by Prime Minister Hage Geingob to see if there were grounds for a defamation suit after Geingob compared Muyongo to Angolan opposition Unita leader Jonas Savimbi.

Geingob has said electoral errors were purely administrative and had not affected the outcome of the presidential and parliamentary polls, which Swapo won with a majority of more than 70%. — Sapa.

Namibia celebrates

WINDHOEK — Namibia celebrates five years of independence from South Africa this week with a healthy economy and reputation for peace and stability.

President Sam Nujoma, the former guerrilla leader who led Swapo to power after a 23-year liberation struggle, is due to be sworn in for a second term of office tomorrow.

There is speculation about a cabinet reshuffle ahead of the swearing in of ministers for a new five-year term.

Independence festivities kicked off on Friday with tree-planting, rallies, sports, fireworks and music to culminate in a ceremony on Tuesday attended by regional heads of state and international dignitaries.

In the five years since independence,

(221) SOWETAN
20/3/95
Namibia has seen the scrapping of apartheid legislation, the introduction of a Land Reform Act and laws governing key sectors like fishing, mining and tourism.

Swapo is expected to use its two-thirds majority to tackle poverty, unemployment, disease and glaring social disparities between rich and poor.

Although it now has the power to amend the independence constitution, observers say the party is unlikely to tamper too much with the founding document.

Nujoma has promised a referendum before constitutional changes. Political analysts warn of the emergence of a dominant-party state, and point to a parliament which in five years has not seen a single Bill introduced by the floor. — Sapa.

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Stable Namibia to celebrate

(221) CT 20/3/95

WINDHOEK: Namibia celebrates five years of independence from South Africa this week with a healthy economy and reputation for peace and stability.

President Sam Nujoma, the former guerilla leader who led Swapo to power after a 23-year liberation struggle, is to be sworn in for a second term of office tomorrow.

Sapa-Reuter-AP, AFP

Japanese police wanted to believe, he said the victims in Matsumoto were "guinea pigs" and the city was a trial run by a terrorist group with a plan to use the gas in the middle of a big city. — Sapa-AFP

Dr Yukio Matsui, Dr Hinohara's deputy, said: "Fortunately, most of our patients are recovering. Symptoms include impaired, tunnel vision, vomiting, headaches and respiratory problems."

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Sam Nujoma makes (221) CT 21/3/95 himself police minister

WINDHOEK: Namibian President Sam Nujoma yesterday took a firm grip on law and order by appointing himself Home Affairs Minister in charge of police.

In an extensive cabinet reshuffle ahead of his ruling Swapo party's second five-year term of office, he created the post of deputy prime minister, filled by former Labour minister the Rev Hendrik Witbooi.

Mr Hage Geingob stays on as prime minister.

Mr Nujoma appointed new ministers of defence, labour, home affairs, environment and tourism, works, transport and communication, fisheries and marine resources, and finance.

There were no changes in the min-



SAM NUJOMA

istries of foreign affairs, mines and energy, trade and industry, information and broadcasting, and youth and sport.

He told a media briefing at State House his appointment as Home Affairs Minister with responsibility for civic affairs and police underscored the importance his

government attached to law and order.

Mr Marco Hausiko takes over as Minister of Prisons and Correctional Services. He should emphasise correctional and rehabilitation functions and to train prisoners so they can be more easily integrated into society after completing their sentences, Mr Nujoma said.

Former Justice Deputy Minister Mr Reinhold Rukoro was appointed attorney-general. — Sapa

Fireworks for Namibia

WINDHOEK. — Namibians celebrated their country's fifth anniversary of independence with a bang and a French funk band ahead of today's swearing in of President Sam Nujoma and his new cabinet for a second five-year term of office.

Thousands turned out last night to see bands and fireworks in the Independence Stadium, where five years ago the South African flag was lowered to end the country's colonial hold on the former South West Africa.

On the eve of the anniversary, Mr Nujoma took a firm grip on law and order by appointing himself Home Affairs Minister, in charge of police.

Opposition DTA leader Mishake Muyongo said the move was an admission that the government had failed to deal effectively with crime, and gave the president too much power.

In an extensive cabinet reshuffle

(22) AUG 21/3/95
announced at State House, Mr Nujoma created the new post of Deputy Prime Minister, to filled by former Labour Minister and Swapo stalwart the Rev Hendrik Witbooi.

Hage Geingob stays on as prime minister.

Foreign guests, among them the presidents of neighbouring Zimbabwe, Angola and Botswana, began arriving in the capital yesterday.

South Africa, which held colonial sway over then South West Africa for 55 years, is sending Foreign Minister Alfred Nzo to represent President Mandela, who is unable to attend as he is entertaining Queen Elizabeth II in Cape Town.

Members of Namibia's 72-seat national assembly, dominated for the next five years by 53 members of the ruling Swapo party, were sworn into office yesterday afternoon by Chief Justice Ismael Mohammed. — Sapa.

Nujoma sworn in for 2nd term

er 22/3/95

(221)

WINDHOEK: Namibian President Sam Nujoma was sworn in for a second term of office yesterday as his country celebrated five years of independence with a 21-gun salute and a military parade.

Witnesses to the event were the presidents of Zimbabwe, Angola and Botswana, SA Foreign Affairs Minister Mr Alfred Nzo and a host of other foreign dignitaries.

Mr Nujoma, Zimbabwean President Robert Mugabe, Angola's President Jose Eduardo dos Santos and Botswana's President Ketumile Masire were awarded the Order of Welwitschia, Namibia's highest honour, at the ceremony.

Other awards were given to top busi-

nessmen, farmers and veterans of the liberation struggle, some of whom did not survive to see independence and were awarded medals posthumously in Namibia's first honours presentation.

Mr Anton Lubowski, the Swapo advocate assassinated shortly before UN-supervised elections that ushered in Namibia's liberation, was awarded the Order of the Eagle and an Independence Medal.

Only a few thousand people turned out at Windhoek's Independence Arena to watch the swearing in of Mr Nujoma, Prime Minister Mr Hage Geingob and his new Deputy Prime Minister the Rev Hendrik Witbooi. — Sapa

Nujoma back in office

(221)
source Jan 22/3/95
WINDHOEK — Namibian President

Sam Nujoma was inaugurated for a second term of office yesterday as his country celebrated five years of independence from South Africa. At the event were the presidents of Zimbabwe, Angola and Botswana, SA Foreign Affairs Minister Mr Alfred Nzo and a host of foreign dignitaries.

The anniversary was marked by a full military parade and presentation of medals. Nujoma, Zimbabwe President Robert Mugabe, Angola President Jose Eduardo dos Santos and Botswana President Ketumile Masire were awarded the Order of Welwitschia, Namibia's highest honour.

Other awards were given to top businessmen, farmers and veterans of the liberation struggle, some of whom did not survive to see independence and received their medals posthumously.

Mr Anton Lubowski, the Swapo advocate assassinated shortly before Namibia's independence, was awarded the Order of the Eagle and an Independence Medal.

Speaking after his inauguration, Nujoma said Namibian independence had brought national reconciliation, economic diversity and restored the country's territorial integrity. — Sapa.

Big reshuffle for

Namibian cabinet

WIM 24-30/3/95

(221)

This week Namibia saw a wide-scale rearrangement in cabinet. President Sam Nujoma, resuming his second term, dealt himself more power.

Gwen Lister, editor of the Namibian, pieces together some of the complicated political puzzle

THE centralisation of more power in the hands of the president and the ousting of those in the top three positions in the Ministry of Environment and Tourism are two of the main talking points following this week's government reshuffle in Namibia.

President Sam Nujoma announced the changes after several weeks of intense speculation which fuelled insecurity at government's top levels.

Some aspects of the reshuffle are incomprehensible, others have people puzzled. Merit does not seem to have played a part.

On the one hand "dead wood" that should have been removed remains in position, while others with talent and potential have been sidelined or completely eliminated.

It is clear that one of those whose star is on the rise is a new finance minister, Helmut Angula, who also takes on the technical side of the National Planning Commission — together making up a very powerful portfolio.

Among those who have disappeared entirely are Nico Bessinger, former environment and tourism minister, who is said to have turned down an alternative offer of ambassador to Japan, and former attorney-general Hartmut Ruppel. It is not known whether the president took into account their popularity in the ranks of Swapo before removing them but he did so, while others, who hardly made it onto the lists at all,

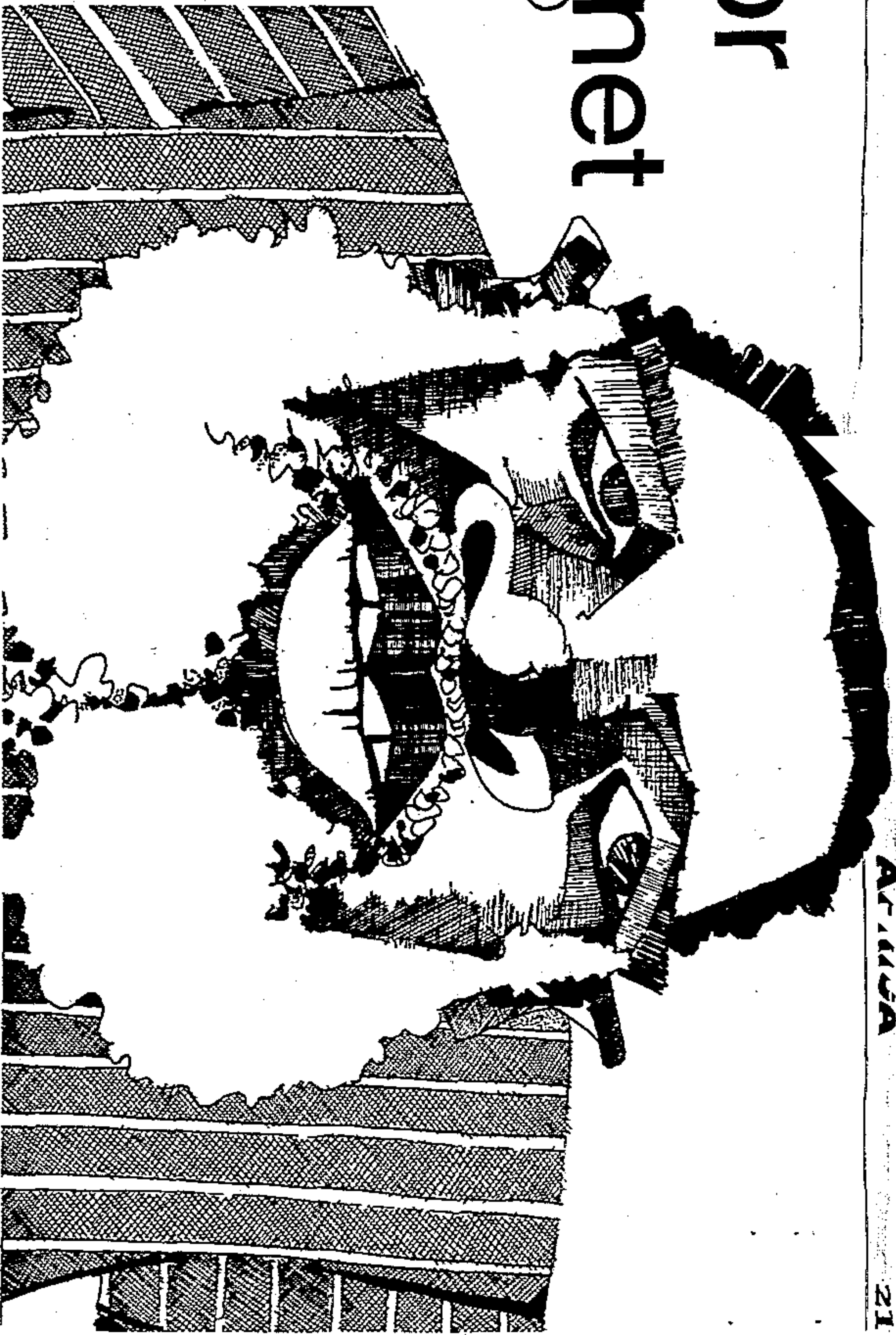
have been given posts as high as deputy minister.

Ruppel is reported to have been offered a position equivalent to deputy minister in the office of the prime minister, which he refused as he is reportedly said to oppose further expansion of government structures, especially for the sake of accommodating someone who has been ousted from another position. Deputy Justice Minister was also offered to him, which he also turned down. Replacing this Swapo stalwart as attorney-general is Swapo member Vekruil Rukoro.

Dr Zed Ngavirue, former director of the National Planning Commission, is also out and is said to have accepted a diplomatic posting to Brussels.

The president himself has taken on an additional portfolio, namely that of Home Affairs, a post which is said to have been turned down by Trade and Industry Minister, Hidipo Hamutenya. While it is well known that the president is concerned about the rising crime rate, political analysts feel he may not only be biting off more than he can chew, but also may be giving himself more power. His taking on this ministry will probably pose the first headaches for the new attorney-general, since any minister is supposed to be accountable to the legislature for his decisions.

Home Affairs and Police are seldom popular ministries in any government, and the president will have to crack down hard on crime. This will not endear him to his support base, and if



Retaining power for another five years: Namibian President Sam Nujoma was sworn in for another term on Tuesday after a vast cabinet reshuffle and an increase in his own powers

he fails to curb the crime rate his reputation and career would be on the line.

He not only takes over the police, but also areas such as passports, customs and excise, that go along with it. Constitutionally and legally this move may create problems apart from the question as to whether the president has time for this at all.

The former incumbent home affairs minister Hifikepunye Pohamba, previously seen by many as a likely successor to the president, has been moved sideways — perhaps even downwards — to Fisheries, a portfolio which appears to have diminished in importance with the fish resources — a scant commodity at present.

Former finance minister Gert Hanekom is still smiling after his downwards posting from Finance to Environment and Tourism.

The removal of the incumbent for-

mer minister Bessinger, his deputy, Ben Uenga (transferred to Local Government and Housing in the same position), and permanent secretary Hanno Rumpf (transferred to Trade and Industry in the same position), is seen as a political move, especially with the appointment of Nangolo Hhete as deputy to Hanekom.

Hhete goes to the very ministry which pursued him in respect of alleged violations concerning the ostich trade. This in itself may have repercussions within that ministry.

Walvis Bay mayor Manuel de Castro is said to have refused an offer to take over as minister of trade and industry. For the time being Hidipo Hamutenya remains in the post.

Certain ministers rumoured to have been in the firing line, have been retained with their powers trimmed. Perhaps as a result of consultation with his constituency in the north, the president, among others, retained Minister of Health and Social Ser-

VICES, Dr Nickey Iyambo, who now has another "special adviser" in the form of Dr Marcus Shivute.

Another newcomer, whom nobody seems to know, is Sara Kaakongelwa, reportedly still in her mid-twenties, as director-general of the National Planning Commission (NPC).

Kaakongelwa's appointment and the decision to hand over the NPC to Finance allegedly sent shockwaves through commission staff and sections of the donor community.

The reshuffle effectively resulted in the creation of two additional ministries (with splits in Education and Home Affairs), a swelling of personnel in the office of the prime minister, and several special adviser posts — generally a move not in keeping with government's stated intention to rationalise, but seen to be justified by Swapo's two-thirds majority in the recent elections.

'The initial euphoria of independence has gone'

Namibia walks the fine line of freedom

(221)

CFW 24/4/95

Windhoek — Five years after Namibia shrugged off white supremacy, a new elite now sweeps through the streets of Windhoek in luxury cars, but there has been little material change for the majority.

President Sam Nujoma's Swapo increased its share of the vote in the December election to more than 70% from just under two-thirds at independence, despite unemployment estimated at anything between 25 and 50% and unsatisfied land hunger.

The decisive victory has brought with it heightened expectations, and government Ministers are increasingly talking about the heat being on to "deliver the goods".

"We have not created employment fast enough. That's a big problem," Prime Minister Hage Geingob concedes.

Nujoma, veteran leader of the 23-year bush war against the South African occupiers, talks of "the second phase of the liberation struggle".

"What lie ahead are another five years even more crucial possibly than the first period of parliamentary democracy," says political analyst Henning Melber.

The evidence is to be seen in the capital, where the unemployed gather on street corners in the hope of finding temporary work.



Nujoma . . . must satisfy the aspirations of the masses.

Windhoek still exudes an air of well-being. Modern skyscrapers and shopping malls compete with old German colonial buildings amid tree-studded parks.

Kaiserstrasse, a relic from the brief German colonial period ended during World War 1, is now Independence Avenue, but little else has changed.

The once Marxist Swapo has exchanged socialist rhetoric for market-orientated economic policies, entering into business with De Beers, the global diamond

cartel, seen by many as the epitome of capitalist exploitation, to share equally the spoils from the country's diamond wealth.

Swapo has also embraced a constitution hailed as the most democratic on the continent and promoted reconciliation, integrating its own guerillas and the former enemy into a new defence force.

But the euphoria of independence, that brought thousands onto the streets to celebrate as the South African flag was

hauled down at midnight on March 20 1990 and the new red, blue and green flag with a large yellow sun hoisted, has gone.

Namibians are now grappling with their "time of realisation", a tricky balancing act between meeting the needs of the deprived majority and creating a climate to attract investment.

Crime, although not as bad as in many other African countries, is on the rise. People are leaving the impoverished countryside to seek their fortune in Windhoek, resulting in overcrowding and squatting.

Ministers are calling for affirmative action, or "Namibianisation", of the economy, and some observers warn of growing authoritarianism, unchecked by a viable opposition in parliament.

While paying lip service to the fight against corruption, the government appears slow to investigate allegations.

Melber sees a "creeping erosion" of constitutionally enshrined principles and notes that some leaders have acquired an appetite for power and show less commitment to transparency and accountability.

But he adds optimistically: "Namibia's most relevant success, maintaining social peace and stability in a world of unrest and civil war, cannot be underestimated." — DPA Features.

Namibian TV staff miffed at 'government pressure'

Star 13/16/79 S

Windhoek — Editorial independence at the Namibian Broadcasting Corporation has come under scrutiny after the NBC acceded to a senior government official's request to televise in full a recent press conference by presidents Sam Nujoma and Nelson Mandela.

The decision to broadcast the unedited footage immediately after Thursday night's news bulletin which included an edited item on the Namibian and South African leaders — was made by management and not editorial staff, an NBC television news source said yesterday.

Chief of protocol Martin Andjaba said he asked the NBC to screen the unedited version of the Cape Town press conference.

The NBC said in a statement its editorial independence was "put in the balance" by the incident and added "NBC management cannot condone and will not allow the practice of any individual entering NBC premises and intimidating editorial staff."

Asked if he had received instructions to make the request, Andjaba said he had no further comment.

Andjaba told Sapa: "I simply asked them. I did not intimidate anybody." Asked if he had received instructions to make the request, Andjaba said he had no further comment.

The NBC said its decision to screen the unedited footage was based on the content of the news conference, the close relationship between Namibia and South Africa and the resultant interest in the item.

But the NBC source rejected this, saying management made its decision without viewing the unedited footage.

Deputy Information and Broadcasting Minister Daniel Tjongarero said: "The NBC has total editorial independence but it does happen that government has a statement which it wants covered in a certain way."

— Sapa

(221)



Nujoma . . . on screen.

Dealing with seals as a fisheries resource

REC 10/8/95

\$(221)

JOHN LIEBENBERG of Reuter reports from Windhoek.

THE Namibian government has defied animal rights groups and approved the culling of thousands of seals along its coast.

"(We) have given the concessionary authority to continue with the cull this year," said Fisheries and Marine Resources Minister Hifikepune Pohamba.

Critics say the seals are clubbed to death so their genitals can be sold for sex potions in Asia, their pelts to European furriers and their bones crushed locally for fertiliser.

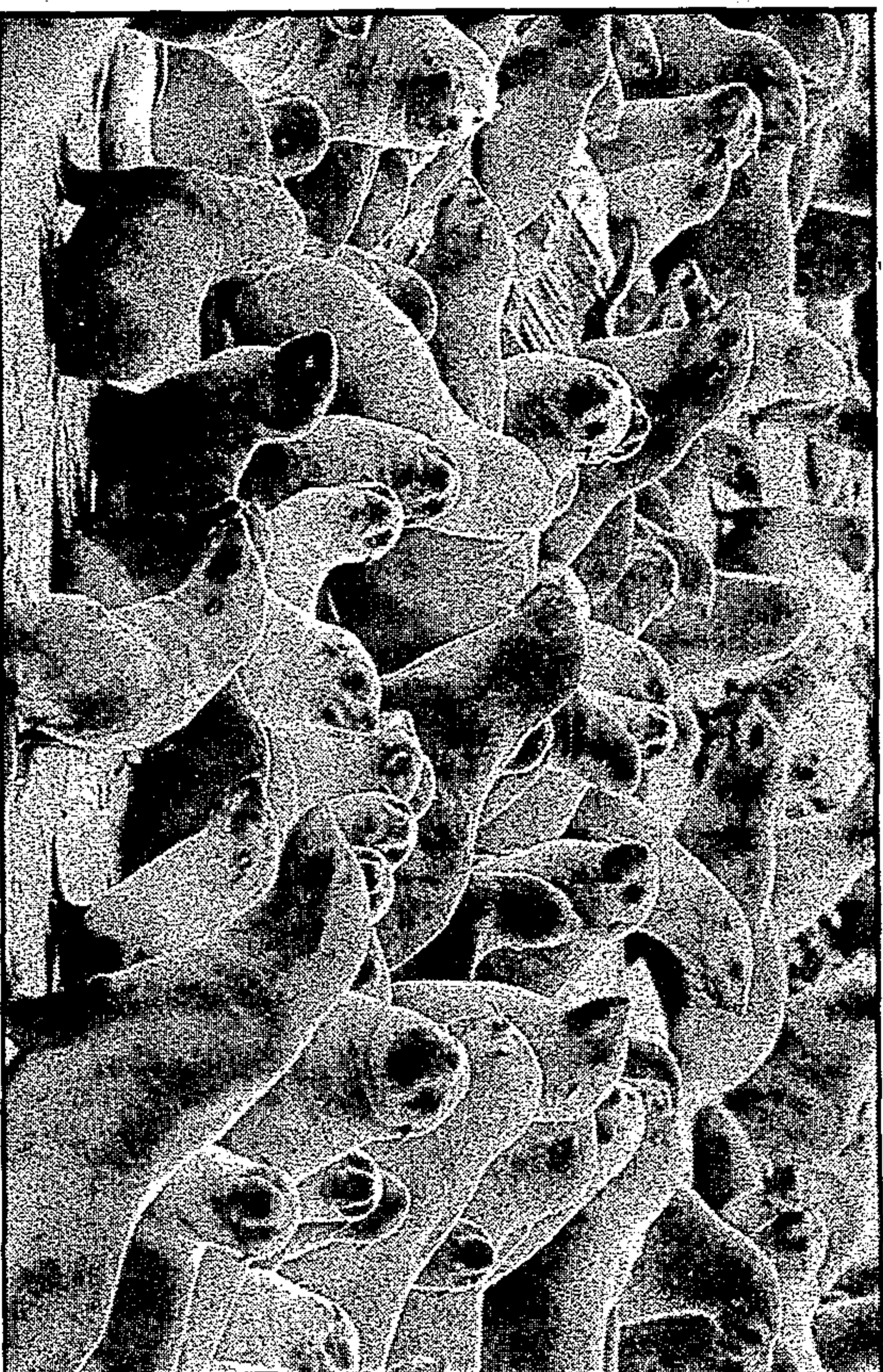
Namibia banned the photographing or filming of the cull last year but television footage was taken illegally by conservationists to arouse world opinion against the slaughter.

But Mr Pohamba said criticism by conservation groups had no impact on tourism or foreign investment in Namibia.

"We would be dealing with the seal resource as (with) any other fishing resource along the coast," he added.

Earlier, his deputy had said the government was still considering whether to proceed with the cull.

Wildlife organisations say the cull on the Atlantic coast is even more unjustified this year as huge numbers of seals died last year after climatic changes drove away the fish that are their main food. The natural disaster wiped out



Fate sealed? Namibia has approved the culling of seals along its coastline.

200 000 seals out of the estimated

population of between 600 000 and 800 000 Cape fur seals, the International Fund for Animal Welfare (IFAW) said.

Last year's quota for culling given to concession holders by the Namibian government was 55 000

pups and 12 000 bull seals.

The 1995 quota has been reduced to 9 800 — 7 700 pups and 2 125 bulls — according to fisheries officials. They did not say whether the reduction was made to reflect last year's decimation of the seal population.

IFAW African director David Barritt said the Namibian government had disregarded all scientific evidence in allowing the cull to go ahead.

"What must be mentioned is that every single piece of scientific advice the Namibian govern-

Namibian conservationists said the seal cull was supposed to have started a week ago.

They said President Sam Nujoma's government had come under increasing pressure from international conservation bodies campaigning to end the culling.

"They are in a very difficult position, under pressure from conservationists and from the concession holders," said Namibian Wildlife Society vice-chairman Roger Swart.

The IFAW said the main economic interest of the harvest was to sell seal bull penises to Asia, at a cost of about \$2 800 (about R10 100) a kilogram, where they are used in sex potions.

Seal meat is sold locally and the bones crushed for fertiliser.

ment has received is that they should not be killing seals this year.

"In order to prop up the seal slaughter industry they have ignored the scientific advice and taken a political decision," Mr Barritt said.

He disagreed with Mr Pohamba by saying that the decision to allow the culling would harm Namibia's image abroad.

"The industry generates very little money for the Namibian economy. They have no realisation that their international image is being eroded in allowing these inhumane killings," Mr Barritt said.

Walvis export zone dispute settled

WINDHOEK. — Legal action against the Namibian government by trade unions has been averted with agreement on controversial legislation aimed at attracting foreign investment, the independent daily newspaper, The Namibian, reports.

The National Union of Namibian Workers had started legal proceedings against the government after it had failed to promise to scrap clause 8(1) of the Export Processing Zone (EPZ) Act.

The NUNW had said the Act was unconstitutional because it prevented trade union activity and did not allow the application of the Labour Act.

The government and NUNW have now agreed to make the Labour Act applicable while still outlawing strikes and lock-outs.

Trade and Industry Minister Hidipo Hamutenya said clause 8(1) would be amended. The agreement would benefit all parties, including unions

and investors, who need not fear strikes.

NUNW acting secretary-general Ranga Haikali said the union's only concern remained the prohibition of strikes and lock-outs in the EPZ.

Mr Haikali said, however, there were many ways to solve a labour dispute and that strikes and lock-outs were a last resort.

Eleven companies, seven of which are South African, have applied to operate in the EPZ at Walvis Bay. — Sapa.

ARLT 24/8/95

(221)

Hereros gagged as Kohl arrives

WINDHOEK. — Police banned demonstrations by victims of the German colonial era as Chancellor Helmut Kohl arrived in Namibia for a two-day official visit. (221) ARG 15/9/95

Dr Kohl held talks with President Sam Nujoma and the prime minister, Hage Geingob, after arriving at Windhoek airport from a six-day official visit to South Africa.

Members of the Herero nation, an indigenous people almost wiped out early this century under German colonial rule, were barred by police from demonstrating along Dr Kohl's route into the city.

Herero leaders are demanding reparations from the German government to compensate for what they term the genocide committed by German colonists.

After his meeting with Mr Nujoma, Dr Kohl promised his country would assist Namibia in return for the promotion of German language and culture here.

He said a commitment to German language education "would bear fruit" for Namibia in the form of financial aid.

Namibia has 35 000 German speakers among its population of 1,5 million — 15,000 of whom are still German citizens.

Dr Kohl praised Namibia's pledge to protect and encourage investment and said that Germany, already Namibia's second-largest trading partner after South Africa, would like to expand trade. — Reuter, Sapa-AFP.

UNIVERSITY OF CAPE TOWN
SALDRU LIBRARY

Hereros (221) AR 16/9/95 protest to Kohl

WINDHOEK. — Leaders and elders of the Herero tribe have protested against the visit of German Chancellor Helmut Kohl, saying Germany should pay compensation for a turn-of-the-century slaughter of Hereros.

Mr Kohl, on a state visit to Namibia, declined to meet Herero leaders and instead went to the coastal town of Swakopmund, which still retains the flavour and vestiges of Namibia's era as a German colony.

About 300 people, some carrying posters and cards comparing German colonial history to the Holocaust in World War 2, gathered outside the German embassy to protest that tens of thousands of Hereros killed between 1896 and 1907.

"There is substantial evidence that the German conduct during the anti-colonial wars amounted to genocide or attempted genocide against the Hereros, as it has since been defined in several UN conventions," said a statement from a Chief Riruako handed to the German embassy.

The chief expressed disappointment that Mr Kohl "turned down our invitation to lay wreaths — as a sign of reconciliation between our people — at the Herero and German war graves."

"Instead, it seems that you have chosen to sample the delights of Swakopmund, much like any other German tourist," Chief Riruako's statement said.

Germany colonised the territory until South Africa occupied it during World War I.

Since independence in 1990 Germany has been Namibia's biggest foreign aid donor. — Sapa-AP.

Namibia defends its seal culling policy after outcry

(221) ARG. 28/9/95

WINDHOEK. — Namibia has defended its seal culling policy after it was condemned by several international groups and individuals, including former actor and animal activist Brigitte Bardot, who recently petitioned President Sam Nujoma to outlaw the practice.

Protests had also been lodged at Namibian diplomatic missions abroad, a foreign affairs ministry official said.

Saying it was important to inform the international community about its seal harvesting policy, the ministry said the government was bound by the constitution to maintain ecosystems and use living natural resources on a sustainable basis.

It rejected various arguments against culling:

● The Cape fur seal was not an endangered species, it said. They were in fact overpopulated and consumed about 1,8 million tons of fish a year compared with the 700 000 tons

landed by the country's fishing fleet.

● Seals were not slaughtered only for their penises, which were used for aphrodisiacs. The complete seal was used for by-products such as oil, leather, fertilisers and animal feed.

● The clubbing of pups conformed to standard international practice and represented the swiftest and most humane method of killing.

"The government has extended an open invitation to both local and international groups to propose more humane methods ... of seal culling," the ministry said.

Sealing created about 100 seasonal jobs and generated an income of more than R2 million.

In a country like Namibia, with a small population and relatively small economy, seal harvesting offered real benefits to the people, something which might not easily be replaced, the ministry said. — Sapa.

'Plot' to kill Namibia's opposition

(221) MG 3-9/11/95

Denford Magora

THE first Namibia's parliamentarians and public heard of a document, purportedly planning the assassination of opposition leaders, was when opposition MP Geoffrey Mwilima said he would ask the Minister of Home Affairs why he was not investigating the "plot" speedily.

Mwilima, MP for the opposition Democratic Turnhalle Alliance (DTA), last week disclosed the existence of the document, which appears to reflect the minutes of a meeting attended by government officials and functionaries of the ruling party, Swapo, in the north of the country.

The document appears to discuss the importation of AK-47 rifles into the Caprivi region. The guns would be hidden until an opportunity for assassinations arose.

Singled out for immediate elimination, according to the document, was the governor of the Caprivi, a DTA member. The document was leaked to the governor, but faster than you can say "third force", assailants riddled his car with bullets. He escaped unhurt.

The Ministry of Home Affairs, which is responsible for the police, was then alerted to the alleged assassination plan. In September the ministry's permanent secretary, Nillo Taapopi, visited the Caprivi with law enforcement and intelligence officers, and they were handed a copy of the document.

The opposition charges that since then, there has been an unsettling silence from both the government and the police. Taapopi confirmed that he had received a copy of the handwritten document, and that he had passed it on to the police. "The reason I haven't commented on the matter is because it is still under police investigation," he said.

The acting chief inspector of the Namibian Police, General Martin Pool, dismissed the issue as "rumours" and "fables". He said the police have been investigating the alleged plot in conjunction with the country's intelligence agency since September, but they have found nothing to substantiate it.

Namibia dashes Iscor's hopes

BO 9/11/95

221

Mungo Soggot

NAMIBIA's Mines and Energy Minister Andimba Toivo Ya Toivo yesterday buried Iscor's hopes of persuading him to give it back mining rights to the Rosh Pinah Zinc mine, saying his decision to allocate them to a firm with Namibian government links was final.

"I would not like to comment on the matter. It is my right. I have given the rights to P&E Minerals, and that is final," he said. P&E Minerals has Namibian President Sam Nujoma's brother-in-law Aaron Mushimba as one of its directors.

Iscor Industrial Minerals GM Chris Wessels said senior Iscor officials

would meet top Namibian officials next week to discuss the move, which has left it with the Rosh Pinah zinc mine's assets, but no mining rights.

Iscor bought the assets of liquidated Rosh Pinah holding company Imcor Zinc — in which it was a shareholder — for R35m. They are now owned by subsidiary Imcor Tin.

After its liquidation, Toivo Ya Toivo terminated the rights and reallocated them to P&E.

Wessels said Iscor was puzzled by the decision as P&E Minerals appeared to have no mining experience. Iscor's application for mining rights contained a detailed 10-year plan, including its employment plans.

NAMIBIA - GENERAL

1996 - 1997

Sadtu to consult members on new pay system

(221) ~~ST~~ BD 6/3/96
Mduduzi ka Harvey

THE SA Democratic Teachers' Union will consult members countrywide to determine whether it will accept a revised R8,5bn salary grading system for the public service from the 1996/97 budget.

Spokesman Thulas Nxesi said salary talks at the meeting of the bar-

gaining committee of the Labour Relations Council commenced yesterday and government tabled a proposal based on a revised salary grading system aimed at reducing grading levels in the public service.

The grading system, referred to as broad-banding, would create a single large pay scale spanning pay ranges and

entailed different percentage increases for different grades.

The adjustments, expected to be implemented from July 1, meant for the first time 290 555 teachers on post level 1 would receive increases ranging from 10% to 48%, while 35 342 post level 2 teachers would receive increases ranging from 12% to 38%.

Hopes soar as more gas found off Namibia

(221)

CT(DR) 13/3/96

By JAMES LAMONT

Johannesburg — Reserves of natural gas at the Kudu field off the coast of Namibia could be six times greater than first thought, a senior Central Energy Fund source said yesterday.

"At first (in the 1980s) it was estimated there were 1.5 to 2.5 trillion cubic feet (tcf), but now we have heard it could be as much as 14 tcf — which is a lot of gas," said the source.

Shell and Engen, the holders of the Kudu offshore petroleum exploration licence, "re-evaluated seismic data and have found a larger deposit further down," he said.

The figure of 14tcf far exceeds recent projections of the size of the Kudu gas discovery, which lies 4 000m below sea level. In 1991, the National Petroleum Corporation of Namibia estimated reserves at between 4tcf and 5tcf. Last year Shell Exploration said the field contained a minimum of 3tcf.

Ger Kegge, the managing director of Shell Exploration and Production Namibia, which operates the exploration licence, declined to confirm the latest claim.

He said Shell preferred not to speculate until the oil company had completed drilling well 4 in July. Shell had identified significant volumes of gas, but at present it constituted "trillions of cubic feet rather than tens of trillions".

However, Kegge hinted that "larger volumes are a little more than a gleam in the eye". He also suggested that the company could sink a second well to have "the gas in the bank".

An announcement of drilling contracts by Shell Exploration and Production Namibia in February

said that "the technical and economic evaluation based on a 300km², three-dimensional seismic survey and extensive gas market investigations have given encouragement that the Kudu gas discovery is sizeable and that the development of the gas could be economically viable."

About \$10 million has been spent on technical evaluation and gas market investigations. The total expenditure over the first four years of the licence period, which started in May 1993, may exceed \$30 million.

Though a formal agreement has not been signed with Eskom, Shell hopes to sell Kudu's gas to the electricity utility. Shell calculations have shown that a gas-fired power station in Saldanha could produce electricity for the Cape area more cheaply than Eskom's Highveld stations.

Should Eskom sign with Shell, the oil company could pipe the gas to Saldanha Bay to fuel a new Eskom power station just after the turn of the century, transforming the Western Cape into one of South Africa's major industrial growth areas.

"The gas volumes that we have been talking about regarding supply of power to Saldanha are a total of 3tcf over 30 years," Kegge said.

Shell might also find a market in steel and mineral beneficiation in South Africa, as well as local power consumption and new industry in Namibia.

"We will have to look to South Africa for the bulk of base-case demand with the belief that it would come from electricity generation," Kegge said.

□ See Page 18

Namibian reconciliation

Up against the ropes

(221)

A row over Namibia's reconciliation process has led to calls for a South African-style truth commission, reports **Denford Magora**

THE reconciliation process in Namibia — carefully nurtured by President Sam Nujoma since independence — is teetering after a row over Swapo's treatment of detainees during the liberation struggle and allegations of crimes committed by policemen in defence of apartheid.

The row has led to calls for a South African-style truth commission, but also to unprecedented threats of "civil war" from the secretary general of Swapo, Namibia's ruling party.

A warrant officer in the Namibian police force, Linus Leumbo, sparked off the row by writing to the local press pointing fingers at serving and retired policemen. He alleges that, among other things, these men, whom he named, knew exactly who pulled the trigger on the gun that killed Swapo activist Anton Lubowski.

Matters took a surprising turn two weeks ago with the publication of *The Wall of Silence*, a book written by Pastor Siegfried Groth, a German clergyman. The book details torture and other forms of cruel and unusual punishment that Swapo meted out at its camps to perceived renegade members of its guerrilla army. At a church convention last week, clergymen asked that a truth commission be set up urgently to probe the accusations.

To Nujoma, that was the last straw. Last week, he went on Namibian television and, for about half an hour, conducted a personal diatribe against Groth and Christo Lombard, one of the pastor's helpers, whom he referred to as "an apostle of apartheid".

The president said Groth was "never a friend of Swapo" and, therefore, not a champion of the liberation cause. Nujoma charged the book was a one-sided story loaded with "lies" and said that since the pastor was not ashamed of writing these "untruths", he was stepping in to set the record straight in order to maintain "social order".

Nujoma's address added fuel to the fire, and some accused him of abusing his access to state television to promote Swapo's cause. This week, in one of the most venomous post-independence speeches from Swapo yet, party secretary-general Moses Garoseb said Swapo had opted for reconciliation but Groth and others were opening old wounds. "So, let us open them and see how it hurts."

Saying Nujoma had been insulted, he declared: "I will not reconcile myself, I am on a war path. Maybe what we need in this country now is civil war."

He said the party would not apologise to Swapo fighters who were tortured. "Apologise for what? For defeating the Boers? That is an insult to us black people."

Disturbingly, Garoseb called on Swapo supporters to prepare for war, warning of "bloodshed in this country".

Meanwhile, Leumbo says he is determined to bring those he fingered to book. He has written to the prose-



Sam Nujoma: Accused of whipping up fear

cutor general asking for heads to roll.

The prosecutor general responded by saying the name supplied to him by Leumbo as the person who pulled the trigger on Lubowski came from a statement that was taken some years ago. The witness, for some reason, was considered unreliable. So the matter was not pursued and the alleged killer was not interviewed.

But Leumbo says he smells a rat and alleges that this is all part of a cover-up involving the highest levels

M+C 15-21/3/96
of the police force.

His mission is by no means restricted to the Lubowski case. He also wants the head of the deputy chief of police and has detailed the man's alleged iniquities at length. The deputy chief professes ignorance and has refused to get into a "mud-slinging match" with the warrant officer.

● *The Namibian* this week reported that the Council of Churches in Namibia has said remarks made by Nujoma on NBC-TV last week subtly attempted to "suppress a constitutionally guaranteed right of freedom of speech" and contained accusations that whipped up fear and uncertainty among sections of Namibian society.

Namibian government has kept most of its promises

(221) bD 20/3/96

WINDHOEK — With Namibia's sixth independence anniversary tomorrow, the country's government has been credited with notable achievements, despite a high unemployment rate and underdevelopment in parts of the country.

According to spokesmen for various ministries, government had done much to meet the promises it made, such as the provision of electricity, and law and land reform, since independence from SA in 1990.

Ministry of health and social services media liaison officer Petronella Coetze said that during the 1995/96 financial year her ministry had built several health facilities with donor community help.

Forty-six primary health care clinics had been completed or were under construction with the assistance of the EU, four clinics were being built with the help of the Finnish agency Finnida, two clinics had been completed by the UN and three with funding provided by government.

She said some health facilities had been upgraded last year. Among these were the Mariental and Gobabis hospitals, hospitals in Rundu and Okahao, and the Rehoboth Health Centre.

This year the health and social services ministry would construct health centres in various parts of the country with help from the European Development Fund.

Haibodi Y-Naminga Kati, chief development planner in the lands, resettlement and rehabili-

tation ministry, said that to facilitate government's aims and objectives, as set out at independence, the ministry had so far acquired 1,3-million hectares of land for resettlement.

"The land acquired consists of 17 commercial farms and 1,2-million hectares in communal areas," he said. About 16 000 people had been resettled.

The regional and local government and housing ministry said that since last March it had built 317 houses in rural areas under its Build-Together Programme. More had been built in various parts of the country by the National Housing Enterprise — a parastatal responsible for the provision of houses for people mostly in the middle income category.

Clement Daniels, a practitioner with the Legal Assistance Centre, said before the 1994 general elections government had passed the Land Reform Act to show people that it was serious about land reform, but in reality not many farms had been bought

for resettlement.

"They (government) also promised that they will tackle the whole land issue.

"Only recently did they present the land policy to the cabinet for its consideration.

"The whole process was done in secret with no public consultation ... This is one of the major failures of government."

However, he said that one of the major achievements since last year's independence anniversary was the implementation of the Social Security Act in the latter part of last year.

This had come into operation this year with the payment of contributions by employers and employees in February. The Act provided for the payment of sick, maternity and death benefits.

Daniels said: "Although the Act is limited to only certain benefits, it is one of the good things that government has instituted since Namibia's previous independence anniversary."

He said the Legal Practitioners Act of 1995 was another achieve-

ment as it made the legal profession more representative of society.

Before the passing of the Act, only lawyers schooled in the Roman-Dutch Law of SA could practise in Namibia. That had excluded many former exiles who had studied in other countries, he said.

Andrew Matjila, a community leader and former politician, said government had done its best to address many issues, such as the provision of housing, health care and education. But it had failed to address corruption. He said there was alleged embezzlement of state funds, misuse of drought relief and government cars by public servants.

Matjila said crime was coming under control because Windhoek district police commissioner Egbert Sikerete had been given "carte blanche" in the combating of crime.

However, he expressed concern that the rape of girls as young as four was still a problem needing to be addressed urgently. — AIA.

COMPANIES

Blue Circle moves into Namibia

Robyn Chalmers (B) (221)

BLUE Circle Cement has bought a 50% stake in African Portland Cement for an undisclosed amount in a strategic expansion by the company into the Namibian market.

Blue Circle Cement MD Pieter Strauss said the company had bought the 50% shareholding from African Portland Industrial Holdings in Namibia, which would continue to hold the remaining shares.

Strauss said that Blue Circle and African Portland Industrial Holdings had committed R80m this year to finance the modernisation and expansion of African Portland Cement's plant at Otjiwarongo.

BD 22/3/96
The modernisation and expansion of that plant was expected to increase its output to about 200 000 tons a year by early next year.

In terms of the deal with African Portland Industrial Holdings, Blue Circle had agreed to provide technical and managerial support for African Portland Cement. The management and day-to-day control of the company would remain in local hands.

Strauss said that the expansion into Namibia was not only to explore opportunities in the country — with confidence in its market growth potential — but was also part of Blue Circle's commitment to RDP objectives, which encompassed a new era of regional co-operation and development.

Namibia on right track

Sowetan 22/3/96 (221)

WINDHOEK – With Namibia's sixth independence anniversary yesterday, the government has been credited with some notable achievements, despite high unemployment and underdevelopment in some parts of the country.

According to spokespersons of various ministries, the government has done much to meet the promises it made – such as the provision of electricity and law and land reform – since independence from South Africa in 1990.

Petronella Coetze, media liaison officer in the ministry of health and social services, says that during the 1995-96 financial year, her ministry has built several health facilities with the assistance of the donor community.

Forty six primary health care clinics were completed or are still under construction with the assistance of the EU, four clinics are being built with the help of the Finnish agency Finnida, two clinics have been completed by the UN and three with funding from government.

Among other health facilities upgraded last year are the Mariental and Gobabis hospitals, hospitals in Rundu and Okahao and the Rehoboth Health Centre.

Health centres

This year, the ministry will construct health centres in various parts of the country with assistance from the European Development Fund.

Haibodi Y-Nambinga Kati, chief development planner in the ministry of lands, resettlement and rehabilitation, says to facilitate the government's aims and objectives as set out at independence, the ministry has so far acquired 1,3 million hectares of land for resettlement.

"The land acquired consists of 17 commercial farms plus 1,2 million hectares in communal areas," he says. About 16 000 people have been resettled.

The ministry of regional and local government and housing says that since last March it has built 317 houses in rural areas under its the Build-Together Programme.

More houses were built in various parts of the country by the National Housing Enterprise, a parastatal responsible for the provision of houses mostly in the middle-income group.

Clement Daniels, a practitioner with the Legal Assistance Centre, says before the 1994 general elections the government passed the Land Reform Act to show people that it was serious about land reform, but in fact not many farms have been bought for resettlement.

"They (government) also promised that they will tackle the whole land issue. Only recently they presented the land policy to cabinet for consideration. The whole process was done in secret with no public consultation. This is one

Unemployment and underdevelopment in some parts of the country remain major problems for the government. **Protasius Ndauendapo** reports...



Flashback ... Voters waiting to cast their vote in the November 1989 elections. Some election promises have been kept.

of the major failures of government, to address the land issue," he says.

However, he adds that one of the major achievements since last year's independence anniversary was the implementation of the Social Security Act late last year.

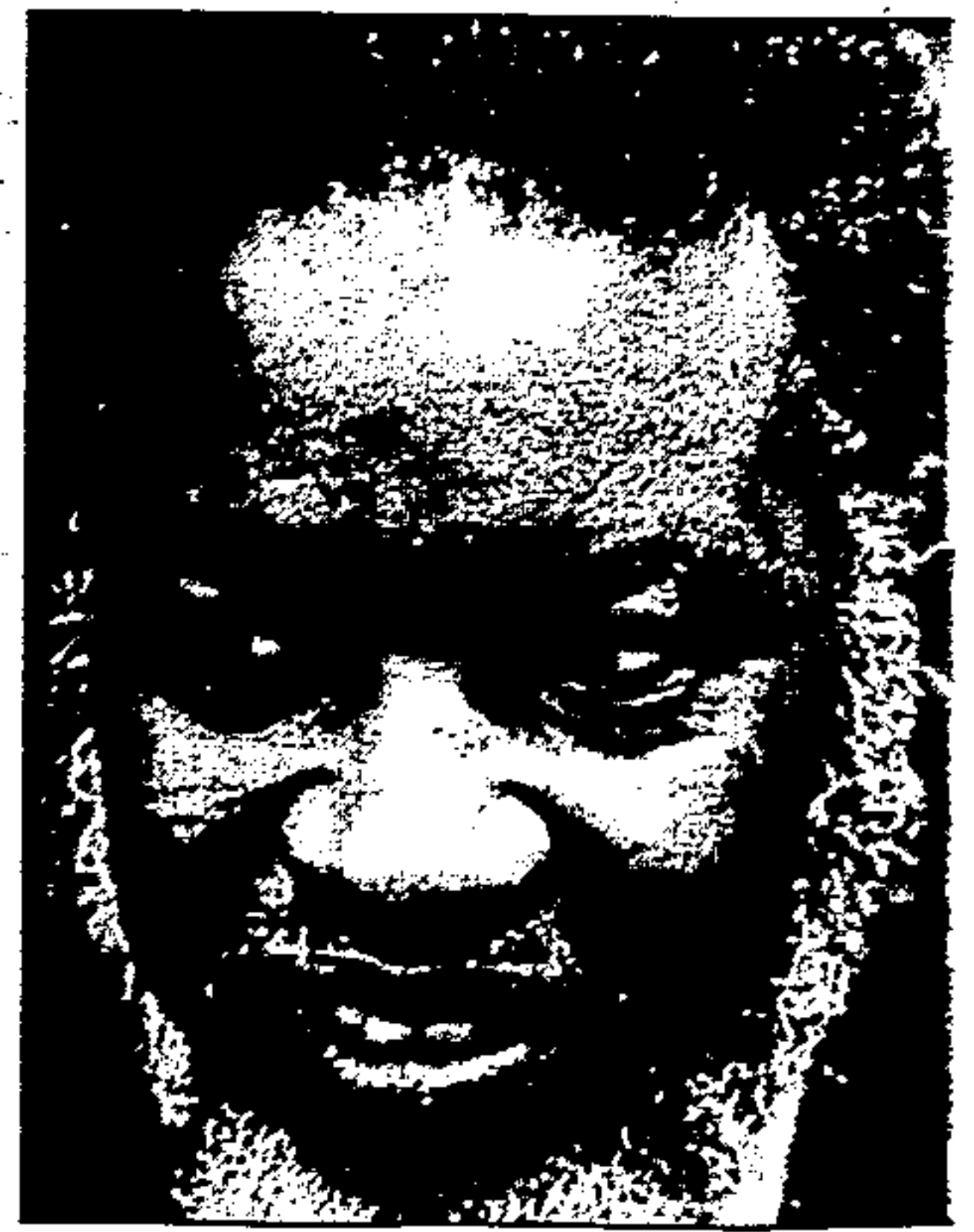
This only came into effect this year with contributions by employers and employees in February. The Act provides for paying out employees sick, maternity and death benefits.

Says Daniels: "Although the Act is limited to only certain benefits, it is one of the good things the government has done since the last independence anniversary."

He says the Legal Practitioners Act of 1995 is another achievement as it makes the legal profession more representative of society. Before the Act was passed, only lawyers schooled in the Roman Dutch Law of South Africa could practise in Namibia, which excluded many former exiles who studied in other countries.

Andrew Matjila, a community leader and former politician, says the government has done its best to address many issues, such as the provision of housing, health care and education.

But it had failed to address corruption. He says there is allegedly embezzlement of state funds as well as misuse of drought relief and government cars by civil servants.



President Sam Nujoma

Matjila says crime is coming under control because Windhoek District Police Commissioner Egbert Sikerete was given *carte blanche* to combat crime. But he expressed concern that the rape of girls aged between four and 16 is a serious problem, which needs to be addressed urgently and decisively. – AIA.

New spotlight on 'Swapo atrocities'

WINDHOEK - A German priest was honoured here recently for his role in "breaking the wall of silence" over the plight of hundreds of Namibians who were either tortured or went missing during Namibia's liberation struggle.

A certificate was awarded, in absentia, to Pastor Siegfried Groth of Wuppertal, author of a controversial book, *Namibische Passion*, which describes the fate of those who were branded dissidents by the South West African People's Organisation (Swapo) during the liberation struggle. The book has renewed lingering

controversy over Swapo's detention, torture and alleged murders of its own members in exile.

The party claims that those imprisoned were South African agents. But many Namibians who survived "the dungeons" and returned to Namibia after independence charge that they and others were innocent. There have also been continued calls for Swapo to account for those who went missing during the liberation struggle.

The publication of the English version of the book, *Namibia: The Wall of Silence*, aroused strong emotions - resulting in the unprece-

dened move of President Sam Nujoma going on national television earlier this month to address the issue.

The Namibian President, who was Swapo's Commander in Chief in exile, dismissed the book as "a false history" and launched a personal attack on Groth and one of the main supporters of the book, Professor Christo Lombard, head of Theology at the University of Namibia. Political observers saw the President's address as an attempt to close down debate on the issue. But it had the opposite effect and prompted a rush on bookshops. The

book sold out in a matter of days. Nujoma's address was followed by a ballistic attack by Swapo secretary Moses Garoeb.

Garoeb made it categorically clear that Swapo would never apologise to the former detainees.

"Apologise - for what? You must be joking. To ask Swapo for an apology is an insult and we will never do it," the ruling party chief said.

The book has also spawned a new movement, the Breaking The Wall of Silence Movement. Chairman Samson Ndeikwila emphasised that it would operate as a civil rights movement. - Sapa-DPA

CP

7/14/96

(221)

Namibia assemblies fight for legitimacy to be 'boss'

(221) Star 9/4/96

BY **TABBY MOYO**
Windhoek

Four years after the bicameral system of parliament – a legislature with two chambers, the National Assembly and the National Council – came into existence in Namibia, a battle for supremacy is being waged.

The lower house of parliament, the National Council, is demanding equal status with the National Assembly.

The National Assembly, the larger of the two houses, has 78 members, with five political parties represented. The National Council is made up of 26 regional councillors – two from each of the country's 13 regions.

The council, created by constitutional provision two years after the National Assembly came into existence in 1990, feels it is being undermined and therefore unable to fully perform its task of reviewing legislation passed by the assembly.

National Council chairman Kandy Nehova has been particularly dismayed by the National Assembly's rejection of amendments to bills proposed by his chamber.

Late last year, Nehova threatened legal action against the assembly after the latter had failed to table a schedule of the Public Service Bill, which his chamber had rejected and referred back to the assembly for reconsideration.

He wrote a letter to the Speaker of the assembly asking him to find an urgent solution to the matter or face legal action.

Time and again, the National Council has accused the National



There is tension ... Prime Minister Hage Geingob

Assembly of flouting provisions laid down in the constitution regarding the handling of proposed legislation by ignoring its recommendations.

"If this (the failure to table the amendment proposed by the National Council to the Public Service Bill) reflects the correct state of affairs, then it goes without saying that what happened was utterly improper and illegal. There is real danger of diminution of public confidence in the legislative process if due procedure may be abandoned in such a manner," Nehova wrote in his letter to the National Assembly.

A court clash was averted when President Sam Nujoma scrapped the contested clause in the bill through a proclamation.

The Prime Minister, Hage

Geingob, says not even a blind person could fail to see that there is tension between the National Council and the National Assembly.

Geingob adds that there is no bicameral system of parliament where the two Houses have equal powers and points out that the fact that all government ministers are members of the National Assembly underlines its supremacy.

In February, the National Council rejected the much debated Married Persons' Equality Bill, sending it back to the National Assembly for reconsideration as it did not agree with crucial provisions of the proposed legislation.

"Let us be realistic and move at the same pace as our people, thereby bringing about lasting change," is how Nehova sums up the rejection of the bill by his chamber.

The rejection of the bill already passed by the assembly has been perceived by many as an attempt by the council to show the assembly that it cannot be undermined.

Nehova acknowledges that the biggest loophole in the Namibian system is that there is no laid down provision in the constitution providing guidelines on how to reach a compromise when a major disagreement over legislation arises between the two houses.

He says, however, it is possible for the National Council and the National Assembly to form a joint committee to negotiate a compromise in the event of disagreements over bills. – Independent Foreign Service/AIA.

Namibia keeps its 'walls of silence'

(221) MTG 12-18/4/96

THE Namibian Broadcasting Corporation (NBC) has refused to release video footage of President Sam Nujoma's TV address on controversial German clergyman Siegfried Groth's book, *Namibia: The Wall of Silence*, to a German television crew.

The book, released a fortnight ago, deals with the abuse of detainees by Nujoma's ruling party, Swapo, during Namibia's struggle for independence. It has led to calls for a South African-style truth commission.

Last month, Nujoma went on national television to slam the yet-to-be-released book, and launched a personal attack on Groth. The German ZDF television crew asked the NBC for footage of Nujoma's address, as well as footage of a later press conference during which Swapo secretary general Moses Garoeb said the treatment of detainees was nothing to apologise about and threatened that "a new civil war" could result if old wounds were opened.

The NBC was also asked for a copy of a current-affairs programme about the book.

According to the Media Institute of Southern



Moses Garoeb: Threatened 'new civil war'

Africa (Misa), the NBC has refused to release any of the material requested by the ZDF crew.

Misa reports that, according to ZDF cameraman Joachim Braun, the NBC refused to release any of the footage, despite the crew's willingness to pay for the material in accordance with an agreement the German broad-

caster has with the NBC.

The NBC's acting director general, Vitura Kavari, told Misa he was "not persuaded" by the reasons ZDF had provided for wanting to buy the footage.

According to the German TV crew, they had explained to the NBC management that they were making a film on the "processes and progress" of the establishment of truth commissions in South Africa and Namibia.

Misa quoted Kavari as having said that the NBC was suspicious of the ZDF crew and that the filming of a programme about truth commissions was not reason enough for releasing the footage.

Kavari denied that the NBC's refusal to release the footage amounted to censorship.

The crew also claimed that the NBC's public relations manager, Cyril Louw, had said the president's TV address was not a documentary, but the president's personal speech, which could therefore not be released.

Contacted by Misa, Louw would neither confirm nor deny the comments attributed to him. — *The Namibian*

'Honeymoon' is over for Namibian press

M+G 26/4 - 2/5/96 (221)

A new Bill before the Namibian legislature proposes stiff penalties for journalists found in 'contempt of Parliament', reports **Graham Hopwood**

JOURNALISTS are fearful that Namibia's era of official goodwill towards the media is over after the tabling of a draft law which seeks to punish journalists for reporting leaks or "false information" on parliamentary affairs. The Privileges and Immunities Bill currently before the Namibian Parliament makes deliberate or accidental errors in reporting on Parliament punishable by a maximum fine of R20 000 and/or five years in prison.

Journalists who report on confidential parliamentary reports, and the MPs or officials who leak them, are also subject to the same sentences under the Bill.

The Bill's main intention is to allow MPs immunity from prosecution for comments made in Parliament.

Human rights lawyer Dave Smuts said the clauses in the Bill targeting the press "offend against the freedom of the media enshrined in the Namibian Constitution" and would have a "chilling effect" on parliamentary reporting.

He called on Namibia's two houses — the National Assembly and the National Council — to reconsider and omit the provisions. Six years after Namibia's indepen-

dence the country's print media are worried that the Bill is a signal of growing government intolerance towards the press.

Namibia's public broadcaster, the Namibian Broadcasting Corporation, has gradually had its editorial independence eroded by the government since independence, but the often critical print media have not faced official sanction until now.

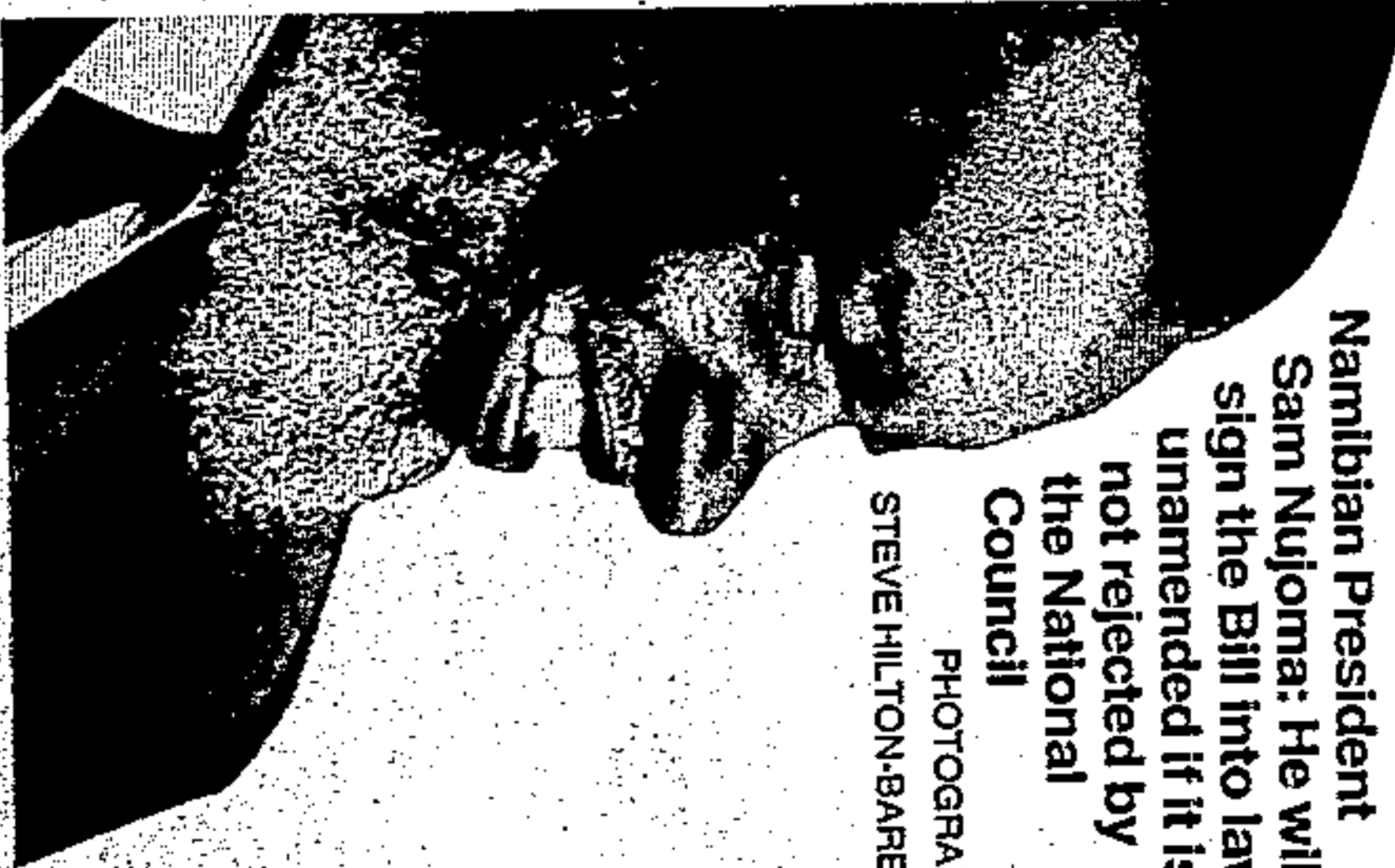
The attack on the media in the Immunities Bill has left Namibia's newspaper editors seeking unlikely allies in Namibia's house of legislative review, the National Council, of which many members are known for their often conservative views.

In a recent National Council debate on the Bill, Swapo MP Michael Fishikushitja urged that Parliament be empowered to punish journalists who are found guilty of "contempt of Parliament".

Fishikushitja's statement prompted Carol Kotze, editor of *The Windhoek Advertiser*, to say he was "taking a leaf out of the Zambian book". Three journalists from the Lusaka-based newspaper *The Post* were recently sentenced to prison terms after commentaries they wrote were found to be in contempt

Namibian President Sam Nujoma: He will sign the Bill into law not rejected by the National Council

PHOTOGRAPH: STEVE HILTON-BARBER



of Parliament.

If the Swapo-dominated council does not reject the anti-media clauses, the Bill is likely to go straight to President Sam Nujoma for his assent without amendment.

In a letter to National Council members, *The Namibian's* acting editor, Jean Sutherland, said this week that if the Bill becomes law it will be the "first serious blot" on Namibia's press freedom record. She said the Bill was "disturbing" as

it sought "to punish journalists for reporting on leaked parliamentary documents, without acknowledging that most in cases leaks are published in the public interest".

Journalists and human rights activists are also concerned that the term "false information" is open to wide interpretation and could be used to punish the media for legitimate comment, interpretation and reports on controversial issues.

Signs that official tolerance of Namibia's free press is beginning to wane were further underlined by the fact that the Bill was introduced in Parliament by Prime Minister Hage Geingob, widely regarded as a moderate who has previously consulted the media about providing more "open government".

The controversy over the Immunities Bill follows official attacks on the book, *Namibia: The Wall of Silence*, which deals with Swapo's human rights abuses committed in exile.

In response to German priest Siegfried Groth's account of atrocities against Swapo detainees, President Sam Nujoma lambasted the book as "false history" in a television broadcast to the nation.

Swapo secretary general Moses Garoeb went further, declaring war on what he called the "foreign remnants of fascism" backing the book.

Last weekend, at an event to mark the 36th anniversary of the formation of Swapo, Garoeb stuck to his theme, saying in an apparent reference to the Groth controversy that there was "a snake threatening Swapo" but that the party was ready to "kill the snake and cut off its head".

Former Swapo detainees have called for a South African-style truth commission to open up the issue of atrocities committed before independence.

Eskom in R650m Namibian project

Robyn Chalmers

BD 3/5/98
221
ESKOM has agreed to construct a R650m, 900km power line with Namibian electricity utility Swawek, the first such interconnection following the creation last year of the southern African electricity power pool.

The line will be constructed from the Aries substation near Kenhardt to the Auas substation near Windhoek.

Swawek MD Leake Hangala said studies showed the most viable option was to build a line which would interconnect with Eskom's network and make electricity available to the pool.

An Eskom spokesman said the parastatal believed it could benefit in the longer term from the trade of elec-

tricity in the region rather than from immediate financial returns.

The spokesman said the finished line would make it theoretically possible to negotiate power supply agreements with Zesco from Zambia and from Inga in Zaire. Zesco was expected to join the power pool soon.

At least one SA company would be in the running for the international tender for the line and equipment.

Hangala said Eskom and Swawek would each finance that section of the line in its own country, with Swawek's share at between R450m and R500m.

The line, with a target completion date for the first leg of 1999, would be able to transmit about 400MW once complete, but could be upgraded.

Namibian parastatal sacks MD

Mt G 3-9/5/96

(221)

Graham Hopwood

THE managing director of Namibia's most controversial parastatal has been sacked by the TransNamib board of directors.

The board issued a statement saying that Francois Uys was retiring from TransNamib at the end of April by mutual agreement.

Speculation is rife that Uys was given a package of nearly N\$3-million in exchange for leaving.

The board said Uys's retirement should not be regarded as "an adverse reflection of his performance, capabilities or expertise or as a consequence of any dissatisfaction on the part of TransNamib".

Uys joined TransNamib in February 1988 and, according to the board, was instrumental in establishing TransNamib as it is known today. The board described the company as "a major asset in the economy".

Approached for further information, Transport deputy minister, Dr Klaus Dierks, said he had nothing to say on the matter.

Only recently Uys was cleared of allegations of corruption by a committee of inquiry appointed by the TransNamib board of directors in December.

It was alleged that Uys owned shares in a private transport company which had benefitted from business meant for TransNamib. — *The Namibian*

Namibia denies plans to break bond with rand

(22) Bd 16/5/94



Namibian President Sam Nujoma addresses a trade and investment seminar outside Johannesburg yesterday. Picture: ROBERT BOTHA

John Diudlu

THE Namibian government has denied speculation that the country is planning to delink its currency from the rand.

Namibian Trade and Industry Minister Hideo Hamutenya said at a trade seminar outside Johannesburg yesterday his country would not pull out of the currency agreement with SA — despite the rand's recent troubles.

Speculation about a pull-out of the Namibian dollar resurfaced at the height of the rand's fall last month. SA trade observers have said the move would be detrimental to the small Namibian economy.

Hamutenya strongly defended his government's decision to give the mineral rights on the

Rosh Pinah mine, formerly a joint venture with SA's steel producer Iscor, to EIP Minerals.

His government had watched with dismay as the "bickering" by the mine's former owners continued before liquidation. EIP Minerals had won the rights because its application was better, he said.

Namibian President Sam Nujoma, opening the seminar, said his country had embarked on a programme to diversify its economy and was offering an attractive package of incentives to investors. These included export processing zones through which companies received tax and customs duty exemptions. "Investors in the EIPZ regime are free to locate anywhere in Namibia..."

The government was developing industrial parks for manufacturers wishing to produce benefited goods for distribution in the Southern African Customs Union market.

A separate set of incentives, including direct wage and training deductions of 125% of costs, were being offered in the industrial parks. Namibian Chamber of Commerce and Indus-

try president Joan Curiras said Namibia, which could be a gateway to the southern African region, was looking for "dedicated" investment partners.

Kevin O'Grady, reports Nujoma earlier told a gathering at Unisa's Pretoria campus that it was important to promote collaborative research between universities in Namibia and SA as the countries had many common problems. Such joint research programmes could include those aimed at "promoting the quality of life of our people through improving their crop and livestock production and arresting environmental degradation", he said.

In the past, Unisa provided access to higher education not only to SA students but had "also extended the frontiers of education beyond the borders of SA..."

Now, with other institutions of higher learning in SA, Unisa had to "face the challenges presented by a new SA... to play your full role in the reconstruction and development of this great nation". Institutions such as Unisa had to transform their old structures of governance, admission criteria and curricula.



REDRESSING THE BALANCE President Sam Nujoma is determined to move Namibia away from its reliance on mining, agriculture and fishing

PHOTO: JOHN WOODROOF

Perks include a no-strike policy

(221)

Namibia unveils plans to attract foreign firms

ET(BR) 16/5/96

By James Lamont

INDUSTRIAL EDITOR

Johannesburg — Namibia signalled yesterday that it would aggressively campaign for direct foreign investment in its economy by relaxing its labour laws and tax regime in a bid to make it the top investment location in southern Africa.

At a trade and investment seminar, a high-level Namibian delegation unveiled a plan to establish export processing zones around the country to attract investment and establish an industrial base.

Companies locating in the zones would enjoy indefinite tax-free status, and no strikes or lockouts would be tolerated for five years. The incentives would also apply to single factories.

"Our primary concern is the continuity of production," said Hanno Rumpf, the permanent secretary at the Namibian trade and industry ministry. "The export processing zones are a measure to allow us to industrialise."

The application of the Labour Act could be considered if production ran smoothly, Rumpf said.

"We are not attempting to become the sweatshop of the world."

Companies locating in the export zones would be exempt from corporate income taxes, customs duties, sales taxes, transfer taxes and stamp duties.

Manufacturers seeking to produce primarily for the Southern African Customs Union market would qualify for further incentives. These included wage deductions of 125 percent of costs, the reimbursement of up to 50 percent of the cost of approved industrial studies and training cost deductions of 125 percent.

Foreign investors in Namibia were also guaranteed the right to repatriate their capital and profits.

Manuel de Castro, the mayor of Walvis Bay, Namibia's only commercial port and the location of the first export zone, said the development of an industrial base was necessary to reduce a 35 percent unemployment rate. Ten companies had already signed up for the Atlantic port's industrial park.

Walvis Bay would be linked to the southern African hinterland in 1998 by the trans-Kalahari and Caprivi highways.

The Namibian economy has traditionally been extractive, founded on mining, agriculture and fishing. It was also highly dependent on South Africa. Namibian exports to South Africa totalled R2 billion last year, but Namibian imports from South Africa amounted to R5 billion.

Namibia's southern neighbour provided 80 percent of its imports.

"We want to equalise the balance by getting manufacture going," said Rumpf. "The investment conditions are such that there must be manufacturers in South Africa considering expansion into Namibia."

The Namibian president Sam Nujoma told the conference that the Namibian economy would shift from its traditional reliance on the production and export of unprocessed minerals, beef and fish, and would target manufacturing, tourism, transshipment and energy.

Nujoma said that Namibia received preferential market access to the European market through the Lomé Convention and to North American markets through the generalised system of preferences.

Fears of revised IBCA rating hits markets

By Sean Feely

Johannesburg — The rand slumped yesterday as bonds and non-mining equities fell for the first time in four trading sessions amid concern about a possible sovereign rating revision and fears of higher interest rates.

The rand strengthened in early trade to R4,2725 to the dollar, from Tuesday's close of R4,2847, before dropping to R4,3175 late yesterday on worries that the IBCA international rating agency was revaluing its BB rating, one notch below investment grade, of South Africa.

That anxiety also plagued gilts. The yield on the benchmark R150 government bond fell 15 points to 16.33 percent from Tuesday's close of 16,18 percent, its best level in two weeks.

The rating agency said its revised rating will be released in the next four weeks. Last year, Standard & Poor's also rated South Africa one notch below investment grade while another agency, Moody's, accorded its lowest investment grade to the country.

A downward revision in a sovereign rating makes it less likely that international investors will buy South African securities. Some large US pension funds require a country to be rated investment grade by at least two agencies before they may buy the country's stocks and bonds.

Investors are also realising short-term fixed income securities are more attractive investments than long dated 10-year gilts, such as the R150, as high three-month rates provide good returns without the capital risk of bonds.

"Investors can rely on getting an effective rate above 17 percent in the money market," said Robert Van Eyden, a gilts strategist at Nick Fredericks, Britz & Co.

Fears of higher interest rates and the possible downgrading of the country's sovereign rating also battered equities. The JSE overall index closed 19 points down yesterday at 6826, as the industrial index fell 44,3 points to 7952,9 and the all gold index rose to 2020,2.

Namibia to stay with the rand

By James Lamont

CT (BR) 16/5/96

(221)

Johannesburg — Namibia had no plans to sever its currency's link with the rand despite the South African unit's 20 percent devaluation since the beginning of the year, Hidepo Hamutenya, the Namibian trade and industry minister, said at a trade and investment seminar yesterday.

He said the two currencies would "swim together" and remain linked until the currency falls through the floor. "For now we are not contemplating delinking the Namibian dollar."

The currency linkage is viewed by many as a vestige of South African rule.

"It would be ideal to de-link the (Namibian) dollar because our fiscal and monetary policy is still dictated by Pretoria, and the Reserve Bank of Namibia plays a very small role," said Manuel de Castro, the mayor of Walvis Bay.

Swaziland and Lesotho's currencies are also linked to the rand. Namibia is eager to slip out of South Africa's stranglehold on its economy by developing a manufacturing base.

About 80 percent of Namibia's imports come from South Africa and about 40 percent of its businesses are South African-owned.

But it appears prepared to allow its fiscal policy to remain in the hands of Pretoria.

Namibia looks south

(221)

M+G (P/M) 17-23/5/96

Namibian delegation
arrived to lure foreign
investors, but some
believe the country must
first separate politics
from business, reports
Madeleine Wackemagel

ARMED with a package of incentives and reassurances of labour stability, President Sam Nujoma of Namibia was in Johannesburg this week to woo investors. On his first state visit to this country, Nujoma stressed the economic bonds between the two countries — South Africa accounts for 80% of Namibia's imports and 35% of exports. "It is therefore natural that we should look to South Africa, among others, for capital, technology and managerial skills as Namibia embarks on a new era of economic reconstruction and development, based on the principle and strategy of diversification of its economy," Nujoma told a business delegation in Johannesburg.

But South African investors may not be that easily convinced. Experience has shown that not all companies are welcome — although Hanno Rumpf, permanent secretary at the Ministry of Trade and Industry, was quick to set the record straight. "There is no law against investing in Namibia, and we welcome competition," he says.

South African Breweries may beg to differ. Its plans to open a plant in Tsumeb were roundly thwarted by the local brewer and it has not made another attempt since, says Andre Parker, managing director of Indol Internationaal, SAB's international arm. The company has been

Sam Nujoma: Wooing South African investors with a package of incentives and reassurances of labour stability

ment has yet to approve the project. By contrast, says Parker, setting up in Zambia and Mozambique was no problem; indeed, SAB's international beer interests showed a 31% increase in profits in the year to end-March, with Africa playing a substantial role in that rise.

to do more than
nomics," says a leading analyst. "If it wants to promote foreign investment, it will have to keep politics out of business."
Rumpf was adamant: "We are not biased against South African companies; all we want is a level playing field. In the SAB case, there was an issue of transfer pricing and unfair competition."

PHOTOGRAPH: RUTH MOYAU

SAB wonders whether he means simply competition. "So far we have not been allowed to compete at all," says SAB.

Michael Crawford, deputy chairman of RPP, says the company will not give up attempts to develop a shopping centre in Windhoek, despite the legal wrangles of the past three years. "Namibia is not anti-investment," he says, "we lost our application on grounds of a technicality. The problem was with the local authority and the zoning laws. We still hope to put up a centre with Pick 'n Pay in the near future."

Namibia realises it will have to offer something more if it is going to compete against South Africa in manufacturing. That's where the export processing zones (EPZ) come in: enterprises will be exempt from corporate income taxes, customs duties, sales and transfer taxes, and stamp duties.

Furthermore, says Steve Galloway, director of the Namibia Investment Centre, the unions have recognised that the country needs foreign investment — and that guaranteed continuity of production is vital to the process. "No strikes will be tolerated," he says. In Walvis Bay, an area earmarked as an EPZ, the unions have agreed to a five-year no strike, no lock-out deal.

Manuel de Castro, mayor of Walvis Bay, was excited about the possibilities. "We are closer to the markets of Europe and America than Cape Town and Durban; all the necessary infrastructure is in place to make Walvis Bay a boom-town."

Indeed, with the opening of the Trans-Kalahari highway, Walvis Bay will be 500km closer to Gauteng. At the end of the day, economic factors will dictate which port or sea route will be used for imports and exports. In this context, Walvis Bay has clear advantages over Maputo, says the mayor.

Namibian land appeal dismissed ⁽²²⁾

AR 18/5/96
WINDHOEK. - Namibia's Supreme Court dismissed, with costs, an appeal by the Rehoboth Baster community against the government over a traditional land dispute.

The Baster Traditional Authority had appealed to stop the government from taking over about 30 000 hectares of land they claim was bought in 1876 from a Nama chief for 100 horses and five wagons.

The land in question was transferred in 1976 from the jurisdiction of the traditional leader, the Baster Kaptein, to the Rehoboth government, an administration under South African control.

Legislation in 1989 saw the powers of all second-tier ethnic governments transferred to the then administrator-general, Louis Pienaar. At independence in 1990, these passed to the new Namibian government.

Baster Kaptein Hans Diergaardt, who has spent over R2,6 million on the case since 1991, remains defiant. He says he will consult his supporters before deciding which avenue to follow next. - Sapa.

Basters can't have land sold for 100 horses and five wagons

(22) Star 18/5/96

Windhoek - Namibia's Supreme Court this week dismissed, with costs, an appeal by the Rehoboth Baster community against the Namibian government over a traditional land dispute.

The Baster Traditional Authority brought the appeal to prevent the government from taking over about 30 000ha of land they claim was bought in 1876 from a Nama chief for 100 horses and five wagons.

In 1976 the land was transferred from the jurisdiction of the traditional *kaptein* to the Reho-

both government, an ethnic body under South African control.

Repealed legislation in 1989 saw the powers and functions of all second-tier ethnic governments transferred to the then administrator-general. At independence in 1990, these passed to the Namibian government.

The Basters claim the land was never legally transferred to the Rehoboth government, which was revoked at independence. They claim that, in terms of the Paternal Laws of 1872, the land belongs to them. - Sapa

Ethnic tension threatens Namibia

PT 20/5/96 (225)

NAMIBIAN STATE PRESIDENT

Sam Nujoma last week paid what he termed a "fruitful" state visit to the rainbow nation of SA. But **ARTHUR PICKERING** submits that the Namibian leader has returned home to a country where growing ethnic tension is threatening stability.

ALTHOUGH Namibia is generally regarded as one of the most stable countries on the continent, ethnic tensions are beginning to threaten this stability.

These tensions stem from the perception among ethnic minorities that the Swapo government has, over the last six years, become increasingly more ethnic, favouring the Ovambos.

The Ovambo ethnic group, constituting more than 50% of the country's 1.4-million people, based in the north, supports Swapo and no other political party. The importance of this support is reflected in election results. In the country's first democratic elections in 1989, 70% of Swapo's national vote of 57.3% came from this ethnic group and in the 1994 elections it was 72%.

Because Namibia operates under a winner-takes-all system, it means that the 10 minority groups are effectively excluded from any meaningful participation in decision-making.

Although most agreed that Swapo would win the independence elections and that it would remain the dominant party for many years thereafter, there were two contrasting views about a Swapo government's approach to the national question and especially about how it would treat ethnic minorities.

The idealists — mostly professionals — argued that because Swapo had fought apartheid and had adopted anti-racist and anti-ethnic policies, it would pursue non-discriminatory policies.

They pointed out that the movement enjoyed support among many other minority groups and that many non-Ovambos occupied senior positions in the party's leadership.

The realists, on the other hand, pointed out that the party started life as an ethnic movement called the Ovamboland People's Organisation (OPO). They argued that it assumed a national image merely to obtain international credibility but that it has remained an essentially ethnic organisation.

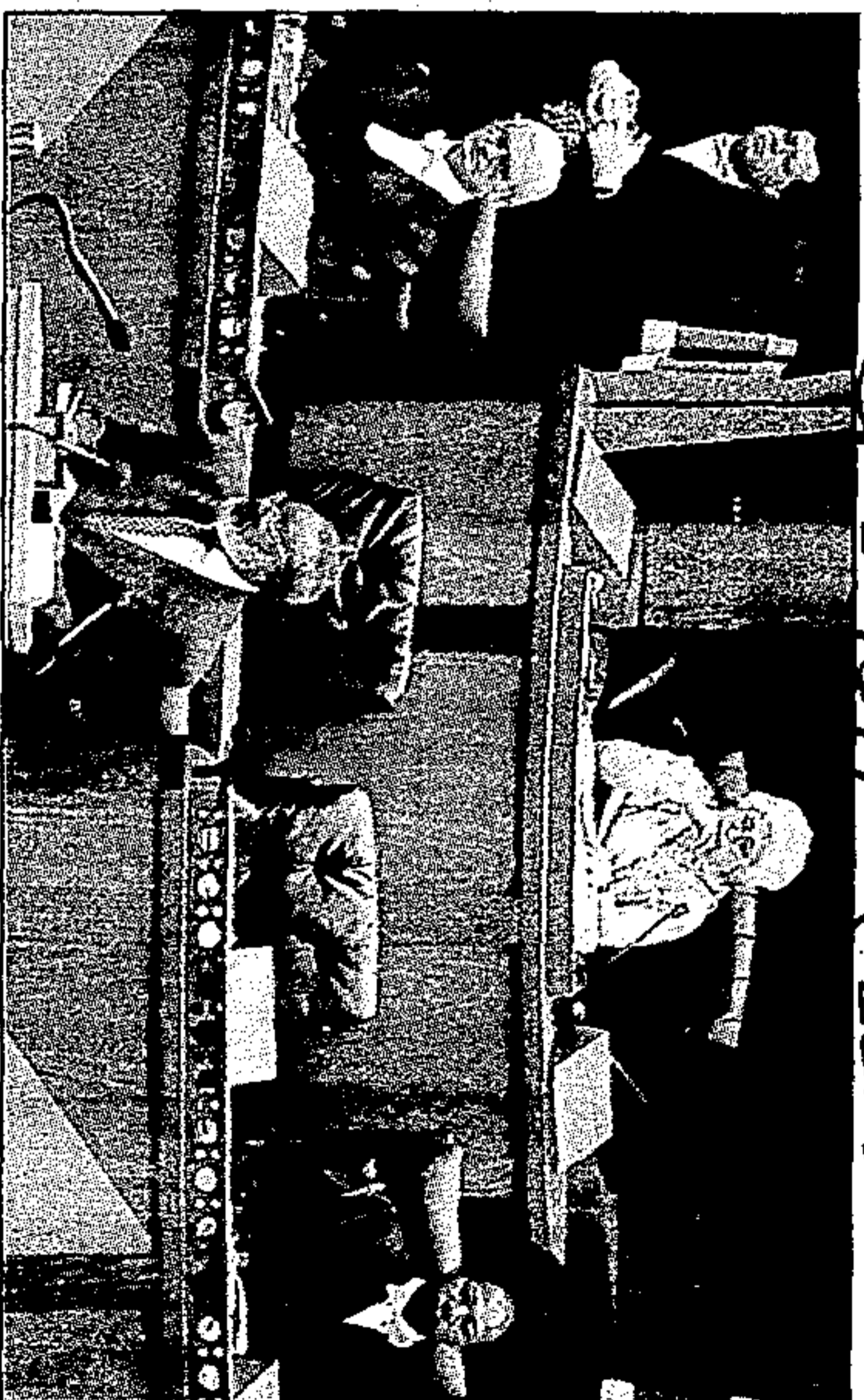
The non-Ovambo support it attracts is because both the international community and the South African colonial administration, for different reasons, had stifled the emergence of independent ethnic or multi-ethnic organisations before independence.

They add that the non-Ovambos in leadership positions lack a constituency and for them to retain their positions they have to remain in the good graces of Ovambos in Swapo. At the end of the day, the party's survival depends on the retention of this ethnic bloc vote.

The perception of ethnic favouritism has some basis. Since independence, the civil service and parastatals and especially many of their top positions have been filled by Ovambospeakers. In many instances it has been a case of ethnic swapping: Afrikaners being replaced by Ovambos.

The first 10 ambassadors and High Commissioners came from this ethnic group. The police and army are predominantly Ovambo and there are constant complaints that most of the foreign aid has gone to the Ovambo region and that most of the bursaries and fellowships are allocated to this group.

It is obvious that if the perception becomes widespread that the Swapo government favours only its own ethnic supporters and that the minorities will in time become marginalised and impoverished, the ethnic tensions will spill over into open conflict.



VISITOR: Namibian State President Sam Nujoma, who recently addressed Parliament in Cape Town.

To reduce the possibility of such conflicts, four conditions must be met:

Firstly, the majority leaders must accept that ethnicity is a reality of Namibian life and politics, that it is not a creation of apartheid colonialism and that those who insist that ethnic interests must be recognised are not necessarily reactionary conservatives or bent on protecting their privileges. In any case, experience in Namibia has shown that some of the most vocal progressives often turn out to be the most rabid tribalists.

Secondly, they must accept that democracy is more than just about majority rule. Democracy in multi-ethnic societies requires power-sharing; that is, a commitment that minorities participate meaningfully.

Thirdly, that minorities, and especially their elite, are involved in all the major public institutions — government, tertiary education, commissions and so on. To facilitate this Namibians may have to adopt the principle of rota-

tion, consociational mechanisms and decentralised structures.

Fourthly, there must be incentives for minorities, through their recognised representatives, to support government structures, strategies and policies. Take affirmative action, for example: There are no incentives for some minorities to support this policy because they perceive it as discriminating against them.

There are many examples of Third World countries which at independence were hailed as havens of tranquility but which soon afterwards became cauldrons of ethnic hatred and violence. Sri Lanka is a case in point where short-sighted policies of successive Sinhalese governments have resulted in a bloody inter-ethnic civil war.

If Namibia wants to remain stable, the leaders of the ethnic majority must begin to address the national question and explore genuine ways in which to reduce ethnic tensions in the country. **Arthur Pickering is a Namibian lawyer and former senior law lecturer at UWG.**

Botswana bomber deal unnerves neighbours

(221) (22) Star 18/6/96

Southern African countries should refrain from military buildup which could provoke an arms race and cause tensions in region, says Namibian foreign minister

By ROSS HERBERT
Star Foreign Service

Botswana, in a move that represents a massive increase in defence spending, has agreed to purchase a squadron of 13 F-5 fighter-bomber aircraft from Canada.

The deal is worth US\$50 million (R215-million) and could put Botswana roughly on a par with South African air capabilities.

This follows a deal announced in January in the Netherlands under which Botswana will spend \$63-million for 50 German Leopard tanks, 200 troop carriers and a variety of weaponry. In addition, Botswana is buying 36 British Scorpion tanks.

Exactly why Botswana needs heavy armour and the ability to strafe and bomb is unclear. The Botswana government could not be reached for comment, but a reporter for the Botswana newspaper Mmegi, who wrote several stories on the deals last week, said he was told by the Botswana government that it needed the tanks to help with anti-poaching and border-control efforts.

The sudden surge in arms spending drew sharp criticism from Namibia and an announcement that Namibian president Sam Nujoma is scheduled to fly to Germany this week for high-level talks.

Namibian Foreign Minister, Theo-Ben Gurirab, has criticised Botswana's arms purchases as provocative and unnecessary.

"It is in the interests of all of us



Sam Nujoma ... flying to Germany to discuss sale of tanks.

in the region to refrain from anything that looks like a military build-up because that could lead to tensions and misunderstandings and provoke an arms race which is the last thing southern Africa wants," said Gurirab.

Tensions have long simmered between Namibia and Botswana over a tiny disputed island on the border between the countries.

Namibian sources also complain that South Africa stripped all military equipment from the country.

In part because of Namibian protests, Germany is moving to block the sale of its tanks.

Botswana planned to buy the German-made arms from the Netherlands, but Germany apparently has a right to block sales outside of the North Atlantic

Treaty Organisation.

A German foreign ministry spokesman would not provide details, but said Germany had initiated talks with the Netherlands on the sale.

When the costs of training 13 pilots (estimated at \$50-million), maintenance, fuel, radar systems, air strips, munitions and aircraft storage are added, Botswana's arms purchases are likely to require more than R700-million in spending, compared to its present defence budget of R833-million.

Botswana earlier announced plans to expand its army from 7 000 to 10 000 troops.

Mmegi reported the government refused to provide details of the Canadian deal, stating only that it involved some aircraft.

However, the Canadian foreign ministry confirmed that the aircraft were F-5s that had been upgraded in the past few years.

According to a US military aircraft expert, the F-5s are roughly the same capability as the Zimbabwean Mig-21s and South African Mirage F-3s and are capable of air-to-air combat and bombing.

Mmegi reported that Namibia has signed a military co-operation agreement with Russia, which will include equipment, maintenance and training.

"We do not see it as an arms race," said Jack Twiss, a Dutch foreign ministry spokesman.

"The way the Botswana government has behaved in the recent past indicates that they will deal in a very sound way with this shipment of tanks."

GREENS BLOCK DAM (22)

FM 21/6/96

The environmental lobby has managed to put a hold on a R2bn dam building project that would have made Namibia independent of SA for its power needs.

Plans to build a dam on the Kunene River have now been delayed until an environmental impact assessment has been conducted. Results are expected only by July next year.

The dam would have fed a hydro-electric power station 140 km below the Ruacana Falls at Epupa. The output, combined with that of the Ruacana power station, would have added 50% capacity to the Namibian power grid, making the country's electricity utility, Swawek, self-sufficient.

Objections to the scheme originated in Namibia and spread to Sweden. The influential London-based Wildlife Fund joined the chorus, providing the signal for environmentalists around the world to voice objections. They claim the scheme will flood some of the Himba tribe's ground and threaten their livelihood.

Their outcry forced Swawek to back off and start the feasibility study. "We hope to get a final report on July 1 1997," says Swawek technical services GM Imker Hoogenhout. "We are looking at other schemes in the same area, but we also want to reassess the conceptual design and viability of the original scheme. We guess — now that's all it is, a guess — it will produce 400 MW and cost R2bn. But that depends on the final design."

Namibia, which has a wealth of minerals but no developed coal mines, must rely on hydro-electric power if it is to become self-sufficient. It will not be able to finance the project on its own. But Hoogenhout says: "It shouldn't be hard to find the money if we prove it's worth-

[Handwritten signature]

while. If Angola joins us as equal partners, it will have to find half the money." Ruacana Falls power station is operating at half of capacity. Originally designed to supply all Namibia's power needs, Ruacana cannot step up production because the Gove Dam, built 300 km upstream to regulate the water flow to the "run-of-the-river" station, was sabotaged by Unita during Angola's civil war. ■

Namibia drafting Child Act

SD 26/6/96

(221)

WINDHOEK — Child labour is rife on commercial farms and in communal areas of Namibia, and is hard to eradicate because of tradition and parental attitudes.

Government, unions and pressure groups are aware of widespread use of child labour, which is forbidden by the constitution and the Labour Act of 1992, but are unable to stop it.

The 1991 population and housing census found 252 boys and 20 girls, aged 10-14, working on commercial farms in the maize area of Tsumeb, north of Windhoek, and in the eastern district of Gobabis.

National Union of Namibian Workers general secretary Ranga Haikali explained that

in Namibia, a child traditionally was expected to herd cattle or to look after siblings.

"It is difficult to detect child labour on farms because both farm owners and parents hide child workers," he says.

Yet drive along the Okahandja-Otjiwarongo road, 120km north of Windhoek, and children can be seen herding cattle in the dusty fields.

Further north, in communal areas near Angola's border, Namibian farmers hire Angolan children to herd cattle while their own children go to classes. In the supermarkets of Windhoek, the capital, children push shopping trolleys and pack groceries.

However, the unionist raised a tricky point:

"How would you describe children looking after the family cattle? Is that child labour or child work?" he asked.

For the union, child labour is a thorny issue to discuss or negotiate because there is no clear-cut definition as to when acceptable child work becomes objectionable labour by children.

Labour commissioner Bro-Matthew Shinguanja says that tackling the issue of child labour is a government priority.

"The law states clearly that a child under the age of 15 cannot work in Namibia. But there is a confusion between child work and child labour."

Steve Katjuanja, a Legal Assistance Centre researcher in Windhoek, says that the definition of work should be looked at in the context of African tradition.

Another problem for the labour ministry and organisations like the centre is how to monitor child labour. About 50% of primary school children drop out before grade five, says Unicef.

Namibia is drafting a Child Act intended to provide, among other things, protection of children from exploitation and being forced to work.

—AIA.

Namibia's struggle against drought

(221)

Source: 4/7/96

By Tabby Moyo

WINDHOEK – Namibia's seemingly perennial drought and dwindling donor aid have forced the government to fall back on its own resources and find an extra R160 million for drought relief this year.

Last year's rainy season has been described as the worst in the last 30 years, with the country receiving less than 50 percent of its normal rainfall, which has affected the whole economy.

The government has had to take money meant for other purposes to pay for the extra relief. This digging deep into financial resources brought about a budget deficit of 4,1 percent for the year to the end of March 1997.

The emergency programme means that livestock and crop relief measures plus food for work schemes will cost R92,4 million. Emergency water supplies will cost close to R67 million with a further R30 million for the 1997-98 financial year.

Almost all of the government's attention is being centred on water. The most ambitious project is a pipeline tap from the Kavango River, which forms the border with Angola, to supply the capital Windhoek a distance of about 1 000km.

Foreign funding will be sought for this.

Another R1,3 billion in foreign funding will be needed as part of the national master plan for water.

"Grazing conditions in most areas, including Windhoek, have been directly affected. The situation can indeed be described as serious and if not addressed now, will become more acute and lead to the disruption of normal economic and social activities in the country," laments president Sam Nujoma.

Drought relief will be coupled with other long term plans aimed at reducing the impact of similar future devastations. About 180 000 people of the country's total population of 1,6 million (10 percent of the population) need immediate food relief.

Higher prices are being offered by abattoirs to encourage farmers to sell their livestock. Special loans will be offered by the Agricultural Bank to help farmers restock.

The government will also provide emergency grazing for communal farmers and pay for the transport of their animals.

Foreign borrowing for the relief programmes this year will cost R171 million.

A borehole drilling and overhaul programme is to be undertaken country-wide. – *Africa Information Afrique.*

Namibia's second liberation struggle

(221) BD 9/7/96

WINDHOEK — Six years after getting its independence, Namibia is still waging another liberation battle — against economic dependence on SA, and too much reliance on mining, farming and fishing.

The two go hand-in-hand. Without diversification, the economy will never create the broader trade base to enable it to cut free from the one-to-one linkage between the rand and the Namibian dollar, said Finance Minister Helmut Angula.

More than 80% of Namibian imports come from SA, including many essential items, and a great deal of the economy remains in the hands of SA companies.

This year's sharp fall in the rand has sparked calls for an end to the parity between the Namibian dollar — introduced in 1993 — and the rand, maintained by membership of the Common Monetary Area, which also includes Lesotho and Swaziland.

Angula says, however, that conditions are not yet right for Namibia to go it alone.

"We do not have a set target — but common sense would suggest that if you had 50% of trade independent from SA, then you could talk of aligning the Namibian dollar with other currencies," he says.

Trade diversification is also needed to reduce the country's vulnerability to climatic changes and swings in world mineral prices.

Currently this vast, desert-bound nation is held hostage to drought on land, while at sea freak oceanic conditions have slashed fish stocks.

President Sam Nujoma's government is making a concerted effort to diversify from the primary sector into manufacturing, tourism, transport and energy.

The policy is central to the 1996-2000 National Development Plan which aims to boost growth to 5% a year,

from an average 3,5%. That in turn should cut unemployment, currently running at about 30%.

Namibia will, however, remain hobbled by the weather at least for the whole of next year.

Angula predicts growth of under 2% this year from 4% last year, and some economists have an even gloomier outlook.

A year or so down the road, however, the benefits of recent diversification initiatives should start to bear fruit.

Namibia's governmental tax-free export processing zones (EPZ) programme — the cornerstone of the strategy — has surprised many sceptics with a strong take-up from both international and southern African business.

Eleven companies have so far been granted EPZ status, for projects ranging from manganese smelting to teddy bear manufacturing.

A further five applications are still to be considered and 20 to 30 other companies are considering applying.

Wikus Hanekom, di-

rector of local stockbroker Simpson McKie James Capel, is confident the economy — soundly based on a positive trade balance and net savings — is set to do well in the long term.

He sees great potential in fishing via increased processing and diversification into new species catches, while tourism has been growing by 15%-20% a year.

Two new highways, the Trans-Caprivi and Trans-Kalahari, due to be ready by 1998, will also unlock the potential of Walvis Bay port, reintegrated into Namibia in 1994, he argues.

More than US\$69m was poured into the town last year to develop the former SA outpost into a bustling port, fishing and industrial centre.

By the turn of the century Namibia could also become a major energy producer, with the giant offshore Kudu gasfield due to come on-line — if Shell and its partners can sew up a marketing deal with the only really viable customer, namely SA. — Reuter.

Tax break on Namibia exchange

Linda Ensor

(22)
BD 16/7/96

CAPE TOWN — The fledgling but vibrant stock exchange in Namibia does not like to be regarded as the cheaper version of its counterpart in SA, and therefore does not market the fact that investors can buy major JSE-listed shares through it without having to pay marketable securities tax.

As there are no foreign exchange control regulations — Namibia forms part of the common monetary area with SA, Botswana, Lesotho and Swaziland — investors have no official obstacles standing in their way.

On large deals, the 0,5% MST represents a substantial sum, as does the generally higher commissions charged by SA brokers. Commission on large transactions of more than N\$1m is 0,2% in Windhoek compared with 0,35% to 0,4% negotiated in Gauteng.

Of the 26 companies listed on the Namibian Stock Exchange, only six are not listed on the JSE, giving investors access to the likes of Standard Bank, Engen, Metropolitan Life and Afrox.

Despite such advantages, how-

ever, SA investors had shown little interest in using this vehicle, Namibian stock exchange executive committee member Wikus Hanekom said. Hanekom, who heads up Simpson McKie James Capel in Windhoek, said the main reason is that the NSE is not widely known.

"Our aim is to seek a viable market for Namibian funds and not actively seek ways to take trading away from the JSE," Hanekom said.

Little more than 1% of total trade on the Namibian exchange came from SA, he said, with about 97% generated by Namibian investors and roughly 3% from abroad, predominantly the US.

JSE brokers said SA investors did not want the problems of going through Namibia, which was too small to cope with institutional volumes in any case.

There was also a high level of ignorance. Frankel Pollak director David Shapiro conceded that not much was known about the exchange.

The NSE, the second largest in Africa in terms of the number of market capitalisation, is under-

pinned by locally registered subsidiaries of giant SA retirement and pension funds which were legally required to invest a minimum of 35% of their funds in Namibian assets.

NSE GM Tom Minney said total market capitalisation was about N\$79bn, with the largest company being Standard Bank Investment Corporation.

Namibian companies represented about N\$2,3bn of the total capitalisation.

In the year to end-February trading volume soared to 15-million shares with a total value of N\$246m.

As the exchange is fairly small, the requirements for listing are lower than those of the JSE. Audited profit before tax has to be at least N\$500 000, share capital and reserves have to total at least N\$1m and there must be a minimum of 1-million shares in issue.

Tiny in world terms though it is, the NSE was found to be the sixth best performer for foreign investors in 1995 by the International Finance Corporation. The NSE's overall index gave US\$ investors a 40,3% return.

EU beef deal 'will hurt Namibia'

20/6/7/96 (221)

WINDHOEK — A free trade agreement between SA and the European Union (EU) could cripple Namibia's beef industry, a European-based researcher said.

SA, which buys 71% of Namibia's annual beef production, is locked in negotiations with the EU on a free trade agreement.

Dr Paul Goodison, director of the Brussels-based European Research Office (ERO) said although his office had not undertaken a detailed analysis of the likely effect

of the free trade agreement on Namibia, it was evident Namibian beef producers would be adversely affected.

He said livestock and meat processing would be the subsectors "most likely" to be affected and expansion of EU exports would be likely to depress prices further.

Goodison said this was likely to be particularly the case "if all duties are eliminated within 10 years on 95% of current EU agricultural exports". — Reuter.

Namibia wary of SA-EU free trade deal

Windhoek - South Africa's proposed free trade area agreement with Europe could have serious implications for Namibia, Namibian Economic Policy and Research Unit director Dr Henning Melber has warned.

"Not only will Southern African Customs Union compensation fall, but also the revenue

from mining and fishing, and direct and indirect taxes will be reduced," he told a workshop in Windhoek which examined the implications of the proposed agreement.

Alternative sources of revenue or reduced expenditure would have to be considered, newspaper reports said yesterday. Melber said expanding

corporate tax was unlikely and that the only option left was to increase general sales tax or additional sales duty, or to introduce value added tax, all of which would affect the low-income group.

"Increasing taxation will be in direct contradiction to the government's aims for poverty alleviation," he said. - Sapa

Star 20/9/96

(22)

(221)

Namibia elects aid watchdog

(221)
WINDHOEK — Namibia has brought in a public watchdog agency to investigate the increasing incidence of fraud and corruption involving drought relief aid, and an international firm of economic consultants has been contracted to make sure that drought money is spent properly.

The economic policy research unit will be working with Coopers & Lybrand, following a public outcry and mounting donor pressure over government officials using the money for themselves.

In 1992 six government ministers, two deputies and other senior officials were alleged to have misused drought aid for the provision of water by having boreholes drilled on their farms or those belonging to their relatives.

A protracted government investigation was launched which found all the officials innocent.

Recently another scandal was exposed involving irregularities in the awarding of tenders to companies to supply food relief.

Senior civil servants in the emergency management unit, a government arm overseeing drought relief distribution were involved, along with officials of the Council of Churches, which was distributing food relief valued at about N\$240 000.

The deputy director of the management unit, Michael Ndivaye, has been suspended and two farmers from the Omaheke region have also been arrested in connection with a livestock fodder scandal.

International aid during the current drought period has been confined to a few tons of maize and wheat with no financial aid coming through. This, opposition political parties have blamed on government's inability to guard against drought aid fraud. — AIA.

BD 26/7/96

Management aid offered to SAPS

BD 26/7/96

Stephen Laufer

SAPS management weaknesses at station level would be addressed under two new programmes organised by the Business Against Crime Initiative, chairman Wendy Lucas Bull said yesterday.

The programmes come in response to an analysis by the safety and security ministry showing serious skills deficiencies at middle management levels resulted in poor use of material and human resources by police. Vehicles were often not on the road, and personnel frequently poorly deployed.

The management enhancement programmes were a further attempt by business to help the SAPS in the battle against crime, Lucas Bull said. They complemented the initiative's assistance programmes to the SAPS providing funding and resources such as fax machines and vehicles, including high speed cars for the Gauteng anti-hijacking squad.

A pilot mentoring programme developed with the Gauteng safety and security department would pair 14 experienced business executives with 14 station commanders in an effort to impart management skills. The executives would spend an initial period getting to grips with the issues facing commanders in their specific local situations, before suggesting improvements to resources and personnel management.

The goal was to develop strong relationships between individuals, so that commanders could call their business mentors in for advice and use them as sounding

boards for new management techniques on a regular basis. If the scheme worked in Gauteng, it would be implemented nationally.

There were many senior executives across the country willing to offer their free time voluntarily to help the SAPS, Lucas Bull said.

In a second project, McKinsey international management consultancy had seconded a full-time team for a year to a project called Project Lifeline. Currently operating in nine police stations around the country, it aimed at creating mechanisms conducive to better management processes, asset control, and customer service. Set to run for a year, the project would be expanded to a further 10 police stations within weeks.

The initiative was also working with the justice department on the national crime prevention strategy in an effort to identify blockages across the criminal justice system, aiming to identify further areas within the police, prosecutorial and correctional services, and welfare department needing help from the private sector.

The public-private partnership against crime was already bearing fruit. Theft of high tech electronics imports at Johannesburg International Airport was cut dramatically after the initiative helped redesign baggage handling systems.

To fund future efforts, paint manufacturer Plascon had pledged a donation of 20c a litre sold for the next five months. The expected R1m would be divided so that the national organisation of Business Against Crime received 60%, and communities 40%.

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High interest rates squeeze Namibia

WINDHOEK — High interest rates, increasing debt delinquency and the saturation of many consumer markets had led to the stagnation of the Namibian economy, the country's business community said.

In a discussion paper on the First National Development Plan, business said unsustainable credit growth over the last few years, a low savings rate, low levels of activity in private building and construction and the devastating drought had brought economic activity to a standstill.

Credit extension last year grew at an average 28% while the coun-

(221) 29/7/96 BD
try's net savings decreased 35%.

It said the penetration of the local market by non-Namibian companies was increasing steadily and had reached a point where SA chain stores dominated in certain sectors. "Fierce competition is bound to lead to closures in the foreseeable future," it said.

"Many very small businesses lack skills and experience to operate successfully to warrant the support of suppliers and bankers as regards to credit."

Business said inefficient customs officers at the border posts had led to the smuggling of goods, to the detriment of some business-

es. "The small fragmented market and the long distances result in high distribution costs, especially for the smaller enterprises, and inhibit competition," it said.

Business proposed that local branches of SA distributors should be compelled to perform their financial accounting locally and employ local auditors to ensure fiscal obligations to the Namibian authorities.

"The earliest introduction of value added tax in Namibia will improve tax collection, and enhanced integrity and efficiency of customs officials will swell the treasury's coffers." — Reuter.

BUSINESS

Rural power deal signed

221

WINDHOEK — The Namibian government has contracted a private company to take over supplying electricity to about 150 rural villages and towns in northern Namibia.

Regional and Local Government and Housing Minister Libertine Amathila signed the agreement with Northern Electricity in Windhoek on Monday. *BD 31/7/96*

Amathila said government had contracted the company because it did not have the manpower to manage and maintain the massive post-independence electrification project it had started in the north of the country.

She noted some investors interested in the area had been put off by the erratic electricity supply and blackouts.

Northern Electricity is expected to provide electrical services to about 150 villages and Ongwadiva, Ondangua and Rundu from December 1. — Sapa.

BRIEFS

Namibian seal quota approved

WINDHOEK: The Namibian cabinet has approved a quota of 17 000 seal pups and 3 500 bull seals for the 1996 harvesting season, the Information and Broadcasting Ministry said yesterday.

"The number of pups recommended for harvesting represents 30,8% of the pups estimated to be alive on all the colonies, and is in line with the number presented in previous years," the ministry said in a statement.

(221)

07
8/8/96

Namibia still insists English is official language

(221) Star 3/9/96

BY TABBY MOYO
Windhoek

Namibia has found that trying to change its past by passing a law is more difficult than expected.

Formerly known as South West Africa, the country became independent in 1990 after years of South African occupation.

Despite the new constitution decreeing English as the official language, Afrikaners continues to be spoken by 80% of the 1,5 million people. A recent survey by the education ministry showed that only 10% of the population uses English.

But lobbying by the Afrikaners Language Society to have the language restored as an official medium has met with rebuffs from the government.

However, at the same time, the government says it is not trying to get rid of the indigenous tongues that are spoken throughout this vast country.

"Local languages have a vital role to play in society and there will be a need for an overall multilingual language planning policy, both long-term and short-term, in which the various languages are institutionalised to their greatest advantage," says Prime Minister Hage Geingob.

He says the reason English is the official language is to avoid any possibility of ethnic divisions and to encourage national unity.

Although Afrikaners continue to protest loudly about their

language being unfairly relegated to a minor role, there is a convenient loophole.

The constitution says "subject to law, as a medium of instruction, a school may use a mother-tongue other than English".

Deputy Education Minister Clara Bohitile believes that if English is abandoned, students will find it much more difficult to travel abroad in a bid to further their studies.

One Afrikaners-speaking member of parliament reckons that the Afrikaners community should be grateful the language is tolerated at all, given that it is associated with the old South African regime.

Says Johan de Waal of the main opposition party, the Democratic Turnhalle Alliance: "I believe that the people who cherish the Afrikaners language like myself must be thankful that the language was not outlawed after independence."

The National Assembly - the country's parliament - has rejected a proposal by The Monitor Action Group, a predominantly Afrikaner opposition party, to drop English as the only official language.

In the interests of national unity and international relations, both parliament and the government are convinced that sticking to English, at least for now and for the foreseeable future, is probably the wisest course to take. - Star Foreign Service.



Prime Minister Hage Geingob ... the reason he favours English is to avoid the possibility of ethnic divisions.

Namibians call for death penalty (221)

M+G 13-19/9/96

Graham Hopwood

THE majority of people in northern Namibia who have testified before a crime-combating commission, want the reintroduction of the death penalty for rapists and murderers.

The commission, which started public hearings in Oshakati this week, was told that the Constitution should be amended to allow the death sentence for serious crimes.

Those who did not support the reintroduction of the death penalty called for life sentences for rapists and murderers. All those who testified were against granting bail to people accused of serious crimes.

Those who have testified so far include business people, headmen, teachers, farmers, leaders of political parties and community leaders.

There was also support for the return of corporal punishment, especially for children who did not obey their parents, teachers or the law.

There was also a call for heavy sentences for those who defrauded the government. "We fought for our independence but now there are some elements who are spoiling our peace by raping and killing innocent people. The government must see to it that peaceful people are protected," one person told the commission.

Witnesses said a new war was sweeping the country and criminals had to be punished.

There were also calls for one law in the land because of confusion over traditional and judicial laws. Some felt a referendum should be called so that people could air their views on crime.

Don't carve sentences in stone.

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Namibian gas field to rely on SA market

Samantha Sharpe

BO 20/9/96 (221)

The southern African capital market could play a key role in financing the development costs of the Kudu gas field off the southern Namibian coast, Shell Exploration and Production Namibia MD Ger Kegge said yesterday.

He told the Global Pacific & Partners Africa-Upstream conference that low development costs and a market with long term sales contracts were the key to the feasibility of developing the fields.

"Efforts to minimise these costs through innovative techniques will be extended to finding financing arrangements in which the southern African capital market could play an important role."

The Namibian market was too small to justify the field's development, but the company was confident of securing sufficient ex-

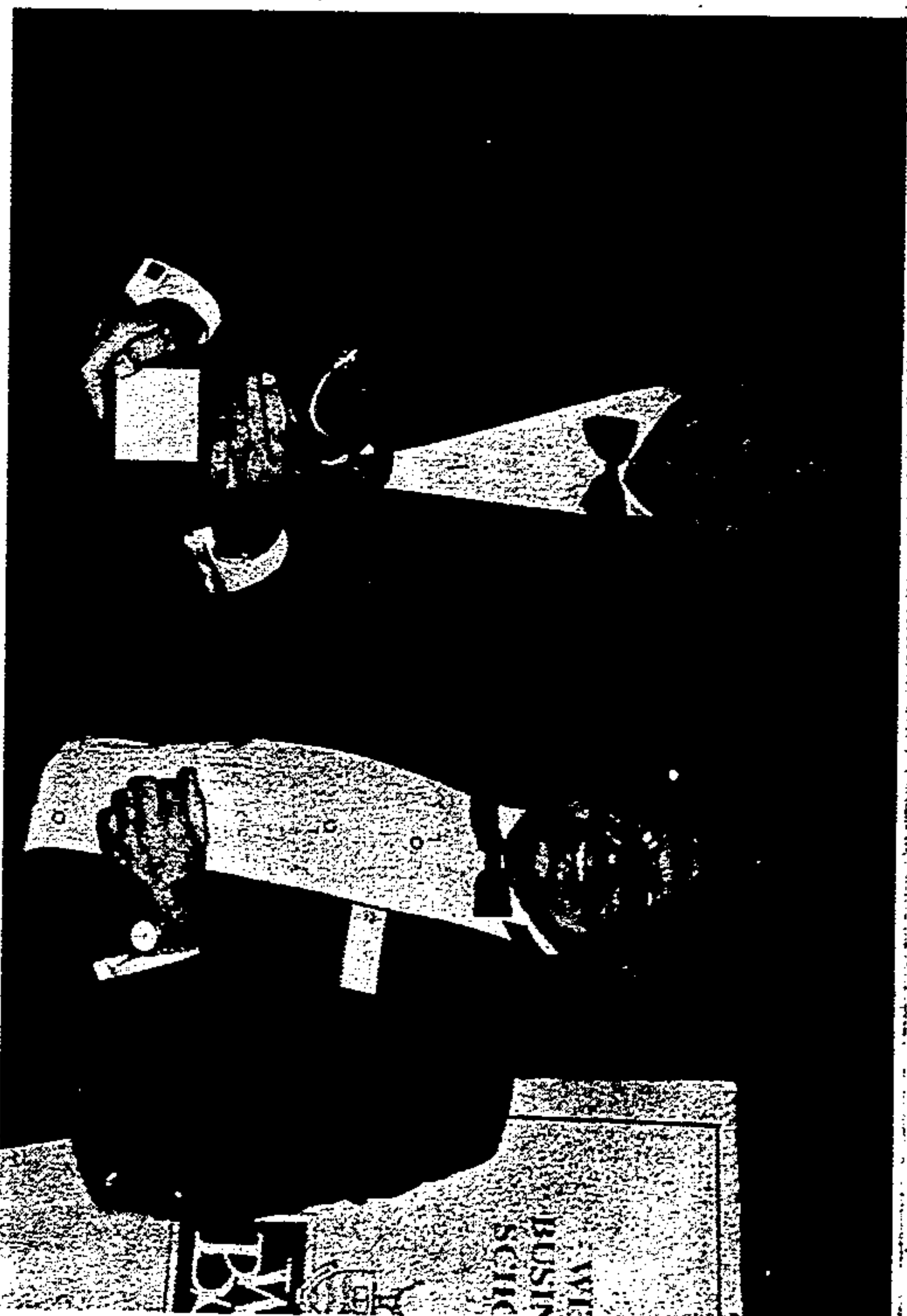
ports to SA to take up the gas field's products, Kegge said.

"These exports could be in the form of gas for power generation in Saldanha Bay or elsewhere in the Cape, and possibly in the form of a power station in Orange-mund."

However, as a contingency against a possible delay in the development of a large gas market, the Kudu partnership was investigating the viability of a smaller project.

Kegge said that to some extent the development of the Kudu gas field would alleviate the problem of the large trade imbalance between Namibia and SA, with a further advantage to Namibia as a source of foreign investment.

Kudu's base case project involved production sufficient for a power station of 1 750MW — equivalent to Koeberg.



Gencor chairman Brian Gilbertson, left, receives the Wits Business School award for management excellence from school director Nick Binedell on Wednesday.

Picture: ROBERT BOTHA

NEWS

Nujoma apologises for jumping the gun

(22) AUG 25 1996

Windhoek - Namibian President Sam Nujoma regretted announcing the appointment of an ombudsman without a recommendation by the Judicial Services Commission, news reports said here.

"Last week, in my statement on the situation relating to the filling of the vacancy of the Ombudsman... I inadvertently used the word appointment," Mr Nujoma said in a statement earlier this week.

"I wish to state that this was an oversight which I regret. The implied appointment will... only be effective once all the legal and constitutional requirements have been satisfied and proclaimed."

After he announced he would appoint acting ombudsman Ephraim Kasuto, it was learnt that he can only appoint the ombudsman on recommendation of the Judicial Services Commission. - Sapa



Pries
The R

Swapo to boycott church-backed reconciliation bid

(221) Star 26/10/96

Windhoek - Namibia's ruling Swapo party will boycott a church-sponsored conference on pre-independence human rights abuses, saying certain elements are using the forum for their own political agenda.

The Council of Churches in Namibia (CCN) has proposed a conference on reconciliation next month where Namibians

can tell their stories without blaming or accusing anyone, NBC radio news reported yesterday.

Swapo spokesman Alpheus Naruseb earlier told a media briefing in Windhoek that individuals within the CCN were promoting their own political agenda to undermine the party.

He also called on all Swapo members not to have anything to

do with the CCN conference to promote the aims and objectives of the Breaking the Wall of Silence movement.

Namibia: Wall of Silence is the title of a book by a German cleric, Pastor Siegfried Groth, about alleged human rights abuses by Swapo against its own members in exile and the church's position at that time. - Sapa

The right to be hateful

Triumph for free speech in Namibia

(221) ST 27/10/96
By CARMEL RICKARD

THE Namibian High Court has declared the country's hate-speech laws invalid.

It has also overturned the conviction of a German-speaking woman who placed a tribute to Nazi leader Rudolph Hess in the Windhoek Advertiser two years ago.

The woman, who wanted to commemorate Hess's death, said that "like Jesus Christ" he would have been a hero to many if he were alive today.

Hess, who was sentenced to life imprisonment during the Nuremberg trials, was the third highest official after Adolf Hitler in the German Nazi party during the World War 2.

The woman and the newspaper, which has since changed hands, were charged and convicted under Namibia's hate-speech laws.

According to the legislation, no one may say or publish anything which threatens, ridicules or insults any person or group on the grounds of belonging to a particular racial group. It also outlaws material which could cause "disharmony or feelings of hostility, hatred or ill will between different racial groups" or people belonging to different racial groups.

The woman and the newspaper appealed against their conviction, saying the law conflicted with constitutional guarantees of free speech, a free press and freedom of thought.

Mr Justice Theo Frank, who heard their appeal, agreed. He said the constitution

allowed "reasonable restrictions" on freedom of speech and prohibited the practice or propagation of racial discrimination.

However, the court has also made it clear that individuals should not be "unnecessarily deprived" of their rights, and that judges should interpret limits on these rights very strictly.

The main aim of the hate-speech laws was to prevent racism between groups in Namibia, Judge Frank said, and free speech might be limited by the need to prevent a repeat of past racism.

However, restrictions relating to other groups were too broad, he said.

The presence of Spanish fishing pirates in Namibian waters immediately after independence was a case in point, Frank said. If the hate-speech laws had been used to block debate on important public issues like the fishing controversy, they would have been applied too broadly.

Although the law banned material that it was entitled to ban, it also banned material that it was not entitled to ban, the judge said.

However, the court could not "repair" the law by simply cutting out certain words. Since the law was intended to address a valid social aim, the judge referred it back to Parliament to reconsider the law and decide whether to make changes to ensure that the hate-speech provisions were constitutional.

In the meantime, the judge declared the law invalid and set aside the charges against the accused.

Japan backs Namibia on plan to lift ivory ban

From Sapa-AP

Tokyo — Japanese Prime Minister Ryutaro Hashimoto has expressed support for a request by southern African countries to lift a ban on ivory trade.

Namibian President Sam Nujoma told Hashimoto at a meeting on Monday that elephants are destroying forests and threatening homes in the region, a Japanese foreign ministry official said.

Hashimoto said he was sympathetic to Nujoma's concerns and would support a lifting of the ban pending the report of a panel that was studying the effects of such a step, the official said.

Namibia and three other

southern African countries — Botswana, Zimbabwe and Malawi — want signatories to the International Convention on Trade in Endangered Species to end their ban on all ivory trade, put in place in 1989.

The four countries say elephants are no longer an endangered species in their part of Africa.

Japan would be a large customer for elephant tusks because ivory is used to make the seals that Japanese affix to documents in place of a signature.

Convention signatories are to meet in Zimbabwe next June to decide on resumption of the ivory trade.

Nujoma is on a five-day visit to Japan that ends today.



AP Wirephoto (221)

REVIEWING

Sam Nujoma, the Namibian President, left, and Yukihiko Ikeda, Japan's foreign minister, exchange smiles and handshakes before their talks at the Foreign Ministry's House in Tokyo. Nujoma is on a five-day official visit to Japan to seek further investment and aid for Namibia.

PHOTO: AP

Corrupt Namibian top brass go unpunished

(221) M+G 75-21/11/96

Graham Hopwood in Windhoek

THE Namibian government's failure to release the whole of a report on official corruption has underlined concerns that the authorities here are unwilling to tackle graft within their own ranks.

Prime Minister Hage Geingob tabled the final part of the report of the Frank Commission probe into government irregularities in Parliament two weeks ago, 16 months after it was handed over to President Sam Nujoma by commission chairman, Judge Theo Frank.

But the first three Frank Commission reports covering government irregularities from the time of Namibia's independence in 1990 until 1992 have never been released, and no action has ever been taken on the findings. Nor does it appear that any action has been taken on recommendations of the final released section of the report.

The fact that allegations dating back to 1990 remain unresolved has fuelled speculation that the government is turning a blind eye to corruption particularly when it concerns senior members of the ruling party, the South West African People's Organisation (Swapo).

Allen Liebenberg, general secretary of one Namibia's smaller opposition parties, the United Democratic Front, claims that the Frank reports are being withheld to hide the depth of corruption they uncovered. As a result of government inaction, he says, "Corruption has become the order of the day."

The unreleased findings of the Frank report are believed to deal with pension fraud, the flouting of tender board regulations and the irregular acquisition of communal farming land by politicians.

Geingob has said the significance of the Frank report has been exaggerated by the media. He told national television that the Frank findings mainly concerned the actions of officials from the previous administration before independence.

But the Frank Commission saga is not the only instance of long-running government probes either failing to

resolve allegations or having their findings ignored.

In 1994 the current Minister of Justice Ngarikutuke Tjiriange and the then deputy minister of home affairs, Nangolo Ithete, were found to have misused drought aid to drill boreholes at an ostrich farm they owned in a communal farming area.

Despite damning evidence presented by a probe chaired by the head of Namibia's Public Service Commission, Willie Brits, the government refused to take any action against the two ministers.

Cases against government officials accused of misconduct also take years rather than months to clear up. The head of the state veterinary laboratory, Otto Hubschle, is facing long-standing allegations concerning the irregular production and sale of animal vaccines in Angola and Namibia, dating back to 1992. He has now had his misconduct hearing postponed until February next year.

In the meantime, the failure to resolve the case is affecting South African confidence in the quality of Namibian beef imports, according to veterinary sources.

There are fears that the failure to punish those found responsible is encouraging more official fraud. This

year the government has been rocked by claims that food intended for use in its drought relief scheme has been diverted for private profit. The case is currently the subject of a police investigation. Two weeks ago the head of Namibia's state housing company was arrested in connection with allegations that R10-million intended for a low-income housing scheme had been stolen.

Hartmut Ruppel, a board member of the Namibian chapter of the anti-corruption organisation, Transparency International, and a Swapo MP, has expressed concern at the slow pace of official probes.

"The wheels of justice don't turn like an electric motor, but they should at least turn," he says. Ruppel would like to see institutions like the Tender Board and the office of the ombudsman beefed up to prevent future corruption cases. He cites Nujoma's recent order of 800 Chevrolet vehicles from General Motors in Detroit for R146-million as a case in which the Tender Board was bypassed.

"Even if there is no corruption, if there is a lack of openness one does not have the same confidence in the transaction," Ruppel says.

Comrades and corruption

NAMIBIA'S media have pinpointed the case of Namibia's current high commissioner to Zimbabwe as an example of how corrupt behaviour is rewarded rather than punished.

Ndali Kamati was Namibia's first permanent secretary in the Home Affairs Ministry after independence. The Frank Commission found evidence that Kamati lost the Namibian government tens of thousands of Namibian dollars through fraudulent vehicle financing, medical aid and housing subsidy schemes. In his final report Judge Theo Frank concluded that Kamati was "unworthy of a position of responsibility and should not be entrusted with any

function where he is in control of or is responsible for the accounting of government assets or funds".

The report went on to question "whether any person who abuses his power in the way done by Mr Kamati for his own selfish benefit is a fit and proper person to be accommodated in the civil service at all".

Kamati became Namibia's first secretary at its High Commission in London, then earlier this year, was appointed as Namibia's high commissioner in Harare. Minister Hage Geingob appeared on television to explain that Kamati's actions should be excused on the grounds of "inexperience" as he was still a new official when the offences were committed.

Namibia almost certain to drain Okavango

(221) M+G 6-12/12/96

Graham Hopwood
in Windhoek

NAMIBIA has defended plans to pump 20-million cubic metres of water each year from the Okavango River,

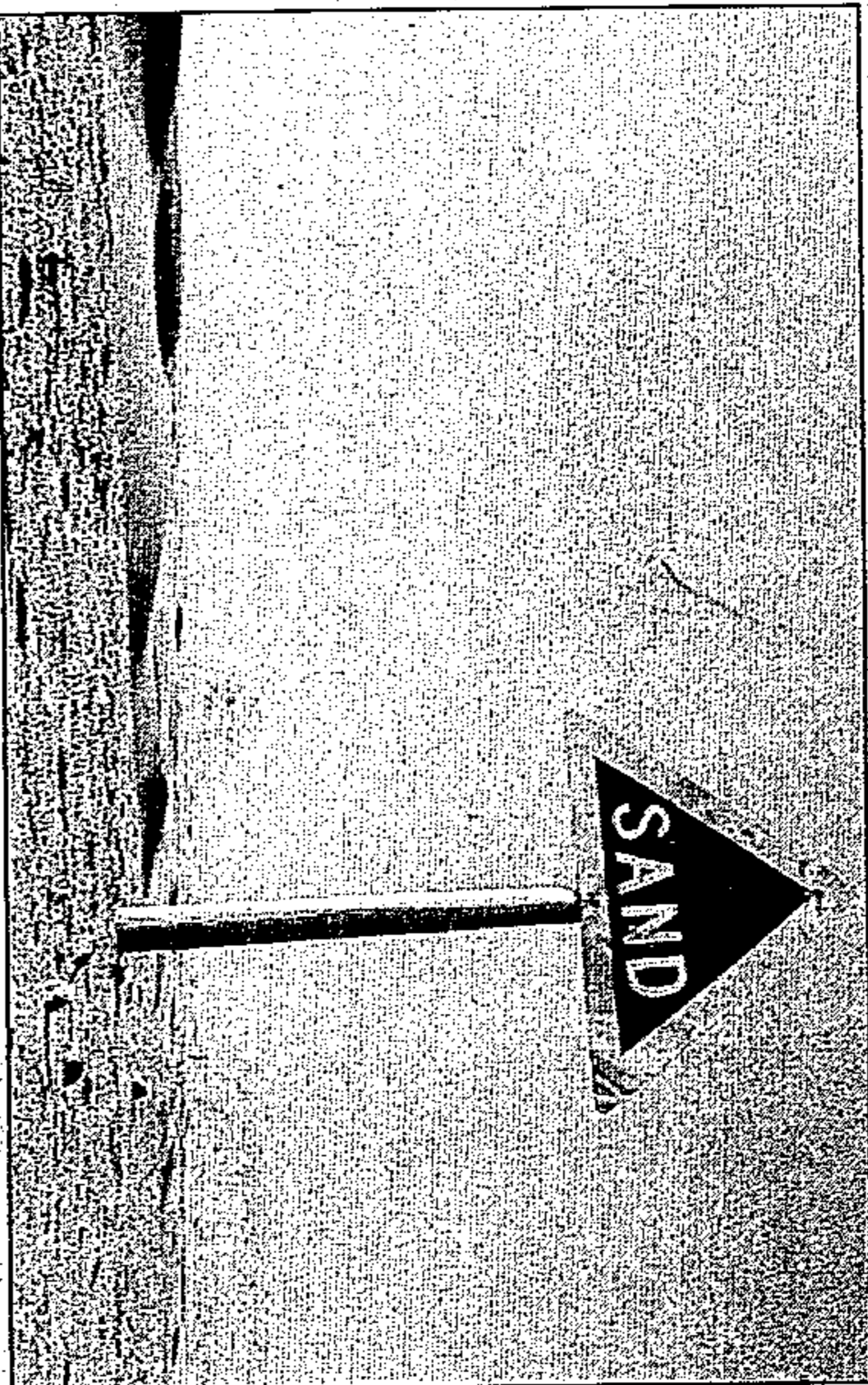
despite protests from environmentalists and tourism operators in Botswana's Okavango swamps, which are annually filled by the river.

Richard Fry, Namibia's deputy permanent secretary of water affairs, said this week that the severity of Namibia's water crisis left it with "little option" but to investigate drawing water from the Okavango.

The dams supplying Windhoek and the central areas of Namibia are now only 9% full, an all-time low, and are expected to be completely dry by next April if there are no substantial rains.

Forecasters at the University of Cape Town have added to the general gloom about the water situation, predicting that Namibia's rainfall will be 37% below normal this season.

The current desperation has raised fears that Namibia will rush through its feasibility study on the Okavango pipeline without taking into account the full impact of the scheme on



Drought-stricken: Most of Namibia is desert, making its dependence on a secure water supply especially acute

PHOTOGRAPH: SIDDIQUE DAVIDS

Botswana's unique Okavango Delta.

The Namibian and Botswana governments recently agreed that the environmental impact study should be extended to cover concerns about the delta.

Fry maintained that while the technical part of the feasibility study will be

completed in January 1997, the environmental study will continue until March, giving enough time to study the river in dry and wet conditions.

The results of the feasibility study are then expected to be put to Botswana for approval. Fry was reluctant to say what might

happen if the Botswana government rejected the outcome of the study, but added that no international donor would fund the project if Botswana was adamantly opposed to it.

The pipeline, expected to cost in the region of R1-billion, is believed to have caught the interest of a number of international donors, including the German and Japanese governments and the European Investment Bank.

Fry argues that his department is doing everything in its power to look at schemes that would make the Okavango plan unnecessary, but stressed: "We have very few alternatives."

Namibia is about to start pumping water from a disused mine near the northern town of Grootfontein, which is expected to see Windhoek through for a further 12 months, even if there is no rain and the dams run dry.

After that the scenario becomes less clear. Using water from disused mines is seen as only fending off the inevitable, and increasingly Namibia's water planners are seeing the Okavango as the only option.

Windhoek's residents have been cutting back water use, recently achieving a 30% saving. The city's annual consumption of 17-million cubic metres

has not increased significantly since independence six years ago, despite the population growth from 130 000 to 220 000 in that time.

Namibia's argument that the use of Okavango water will be negligible is not widely accepted in Botswana where recent newspaper headlines have proclaimed "Hands off the delta" and "Green activists might take up arms". But prophecies of a "water war" between the two countries are being seen here as hyperbole.

Fry believes Botswana will see Namibia's water crisis in the light of "humanitarian need" and will ultimately respond to the pipeline project sympathetically.

He also dismissed last week's *Mail & Guardian* report that Namibia was already negotiating with United States company, Owens Corning, to construct the 250km-long pipe, saying that the technical specifications would not be known until next year and that the project's donors would insist on an international tender.

If it does rain significantly next year, Fry said the pipeline would still be investigated through the Okavango River Basin Commission but without the same sense of urgency.

State land deal in Walvis to be probed

By JESSICA BEZUIDENHOUT

A COMMISSION of inquiry has been asked to investigate the sale of 60 South African government-owned properties in Walvis Bay, which were sold below their market value at a loss of over R4-million two years ago.

The properties, which were sold by the Public Works Department under the former Cape Provincial Administration shortly before Walvis Bay's incorporation into Namibia, netted a mere R2-million. The De Meyer Commission of Inquiry is probing whether the sale was concluded according to the correct Treasury pro-

cedures required for state sales.

The properties, mainly houses which were built for South African civil servants, were sold for way below independent valuations.

Cape Metro is in possession of a document which lists the combined value of the 60 properties, which were sold for R2,4-million, at just over R6-million.

According to the document, eight of the houses were bought by private individuals for between R22 000 and R77 000 and then "simultaneously" resold for between R68 000 and R200 00.

The government only netted about R330 000 from the eight sales, while the

buyers pocketed close to R500 000.

The deal would have required the approval from the former CPA's executive committee, headed by Kobus Meiring as Administrator of the Cape at the time, sources said.

Meiring is overseas at present and could not be contacted.

According to a reliable source, no record of Treasury approval could be found during an initial internal investigation by the new Western Cape Department of Public Works.

Western Cape Minister of Transport and Public Works, Leonard Ramatlakane, has referred the alleged irregularities in-

volving the sale of state assets under the former CPA, to the national De Meyer Commission for investigation because initial findings were "unsatisfactory".

National Party Minister of Local Government, Peter Marais, who served on the executive committee of the former CPA, said although he did not have particulars of the deal, the instruction to sell would have had to come from the former government's Department of Foreign Affairs.

He said the province would have been responsible for the procedural functions, which included approving the price at which the properties were sold.

(221) ST (Cm) 8/12/96

Nujoma eyes third term as president

Will Namibia's President Sam Nujoma change the Constitution to suit himself? **Graham Hopwood** reports from Windhoek

THERE is growing speculation in Namibia that President Sam Nujoma will not stand down as president in 1999 as demanded by the country's Constitution, but run for a third term in office.

Support for Nujoma to run for another term is believed to be strong within the ruling party, the South West African Peoples Organisation (Swapo).

Nujoma is 67 and would be 70 when due to give up office, younger than other regional leaders such as Mandela (78) and Mugabe (72).

Nujoma himself has given conflicting signals about his intentions. He told the BBC World Service last year that he would stand down to make way for a younger member of Swapo, but within weeks he was telling Zimbabwean television that the question of whether he would run again would be left for the party to decide.

Unless Nujoma clearly indicates that he will stand down, he is likely to face calls from within Swapo to stay on as the "father of the nation". Nujoma has been Namibia's only president since the country's independence in 1990. But any attempt to run for office

again would mean changing the Constitution, which currently restricts the incumbent to two five-year terms.

Swapo has the political power to amend the Constitution with its two-thirds majority in the National Assembly, but the suggestion that the country's supreme law be changed to suit a third term for Nujoma is already meeting resistance.

Namibia's Constitution has not been amended since independence. Professor André du Pisani, a political scientist at the University of Namibia, said of the prospect of changing the country's supreme law: "The Constitution is the founding document of the new republic. To tamper with it would be hugely undesirable."

Du Pisani added that a constitutional amendment would result in "personal rule" by Nujoma. "It effectively means the incumbent is the only person fit to hold high office. The person and the office become almost one."

Editor of *The Namibian* newspaper, Gwen Lister, was unequivocal on the question of a third term.

"The president should leave office with his reputation and integrity intact, and not go the way of Kaunda

MAG 24 - 30/1/97

(221)



Looking ahead? Sam Nujoma, Namibia's 'father of the nation', has not fostered an heir apparent PHOTO: RUTH MOTAU

and other African leaders, who have been discredited by serving virtual life terms in office," Lister said.

Other Swapo members privately say that a third term for Nujoma may not be desirable but could avoid damaging in-fighting within Swapo over succession to the presidency.

Nujoma has not groomed an heir-apparent to his office. Prime Minister Hage Geingob is admired internationally, but has little popular support within Swapo. Minister of Trade Hiddpo Hamutenya is believed to nurse presidential ambitions, but has so far been content to wait in the wings. Minister of Agriculture Helmut

Angula had any presidential hopes he might harbour dented when he was summarily moved by Nujoma last year from the finance portfolio after only a short time in the post.

Minister of Lands Pendukeni Ithana is sometimes mentioned as a rising star in the party, but her fortunes largely depend on whether she is able to steer through sensitive land reform legislation effectively.

Minister of Fisheries Hifikepunye Pohamba is regarded as a possible successor if the party decides to go for another "father figure". Recent speculation has focused on a combined ticket of Swapo vice-president and Deputy Prime Minister Hendrik

Withool as the party's presidential candidate for the 1999 election with Hamutenya as his prime minister.

Swapo's official position is that no decision about changing the Constitution to accommodate a third term for Nujoma has yet been taken. The issue is almost certain to come up at the party's congress scheduled for the middle of the year.

Another option apparently already discussed at high levels within the party is to put the issue of a third term for Nujoma to a national referendum.

The outcome of this, if a "yes" for Nujoma, could be used to offset international fears that democracy in

NP slams write-off of Namibia's R1,242-bn 'apartheid debt'

ARCT 22/2/97

(221)

Parliament has voted to write off a R1,242-billion debt which Namibia has owed South Africa since the territory's independence in 1990. Support for the bill was unanimous with exception of the National Party.

Presenting the Exchequer Amendment Bill, Finance Minister Trevor Manuel said, by writing off of the Namibian debt South Africa would have reached a new chapter of co-operation with its neighbours.

He warned the Government debt would be increased by R1,242 billion on the date on which South Africa takes over the debt. Following a period of negotiations, the

Government approved a debt settlement in December 1996 in terms of which it would take over the 12 bond issue series outstanding in the South African capital market amounting to more than R268-million, and write off the Namibian Reserve Bank's overdraft with it of more than R842-million.

Since 1994, the Government has accepted debts of former provinces, homelands and self-governing territories and felt it should also accept another apartheid debt in Namibia.

"The Exchequer Amendment Act of 1997 proposes that the South African Gov-

ernment do the honourable thing by talking back that which is its own," he said.

The NP described the writing off of the debt as a "generous", adding that the money could have been used to provide South Africans with essential services they so much needed.

Jacobus le Roux (NP), said this donation equalled the total development aid Namibia received for the first five years of its independence.

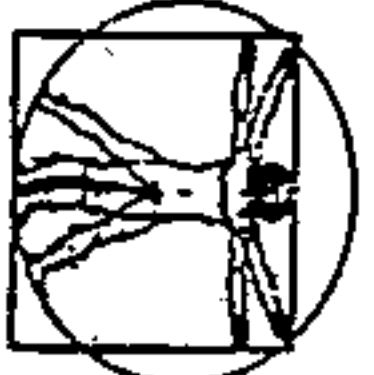
"This money could have been put to better use - the development of infrastructure so much needed by South Africans," he said. - Sapa

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Himba outraged by dam plan

(221) M49 7-13/3/97

A hydro-electric project dam in northern Namibia could displace 2 000 people.

Graham Hopwood reports from Windhoek

THE Himba people in north-west Namibia are battling a plan to construct a hydro-power station and dam on the Kunene River which could flood up to 400km² of their land.

"We don't want the construction of the dam. It's our ancestral residence," says Himba chief Muatjindika Mutambo.

If the project designated for the Epupa area goes ahead, the Himba will not only lose grazing land, but also many of their ancestral graves.

Mutambo rejects the possibility that the government will compensate them financially if they move from the area. "How do you pay for ancestral graves with money?" he asked at a recent press conference.

Mutambo travelled 900km to Windhoek last month to plead his people's case against the dam, but his arguments have so far made little headway with the government.

The debate over the dam is rapidly turning into a party political war of words, with the Himba enlisting the support of the official opposition, the Democratic Turnhalle Alliance (DTA).

Swapo MP Angelika Muharukua is leading a campaign urging that the dam be speeded up as it would bring development to the isolated region.

Claims have suggested that the technical committee overseeing the project is pressing ahead with plans for a massive dam against the advice of official consultants from Norway and Sweden, who are currently conducting a feasibility study.

The feasibility team said in its first report that the final investigations should concentrate on one site only — a smaller, lower impact dam in the Baynes mountains. The Baynes option would flood only 94km² and directly affect about 100 Himba.

The team's report recommended that "on the basis of technical feasibility, economic viability and environmental acceptability" the Baynes option be subject to a full feasibility study and environmental impact assessment.

However, the Namibian-Angolan joint technical committee on the Epupa project differed with the con-



Under threat: 2 000 Himba could be displaced by a gigantic dam

PHOTOGRAPH: JOHN LIEBENBERG

sultants' findings. Although only Namibia will benefit from electricity generated by the project, Angolan representatives are serving on the technical committee since the Kunene River marks the border between the two countries.

The technical committee insisted, apparently at Namibia's urging, that a much larger dam site should also be included in the final stage of the study.

The committee instructed the feasibility consultants to continue their research on a site which would flood nearly 400km² of the Himba's land — affecting at least 2 000 people and destroying 160 ancestral graves and archaeological sites.

The larger site would also swamp the Epupa waterfalls tourist attraction and have a much greater impact on the downstream environment.

At a public consultation meeting two weeks ago it emerged that the Swedish and Norwegian governments, which have pumped the equivalent of R26-million into the study, will not fund the investigations into the second larger site, officially

because of "budget constraints".

As a result Namibia and Angola have agreed to find an extra R3-million needed to research the viability of the larger dam site.

Local press reports have alleged that the Namibian government is insisting on the site at Epupa because it wants "a prestige project" which means having a massive dam regardless of the objections.

Imker Hoogenhout, a spokesman for the technical committee, said the larger site has been added because the smaller Baynes option would be highly dependent on the proper functioning of the Gove dam in southern Angola.

Gove was badly damaged during the Angolan war and has not yet been fully repaired. Hoogenhout maintains that because of uncertainties over peace in Angola, it is too risky to concentrate solely on the Baynes site and therefore another option is needed.

The feasibility study group is due to make a final recommendation later

this year and if it gives the go-ahead construction could start before the end of the century.

The Namibian government says the 300 megawatt power plant and dam are necessary to make Namibia energy self-sufficient. Environmentalists opposing the dam argue that the government would do better to concentrate on the offshore Kudu gas field and alternative energy sources to meet the rising demand for electricity.

Upping the political ante surrounding the project DTA vice-president Katuutire Kaura has claimed that it would be unconstitutional for the government to take communal land from the Himba. He argues that under the country's supreme law, a council of traditional leaders which would include Himba chiefs should advise the president on the use of communal land. The council has not been convened since independence in 1990.

In a counter move Swapo supporters in favour of the Epupa project have called for a referendum in the Kunene region to decide if the hydropower plan should go ahead.

Namibian budget 'fails to tackle public salary bill'

TASSY MOYO

Windhoek — Namibia's \$1.3 billion budget for the financial year that begins on April 1 has been praised for reducing the deficit but criticised for not tackling the growing civil service salary bill.

Nangolo Mbumba, the finance minister, had allowed for a 13.4 percent increase in spending over last year. Henning Melber, the direc-

tor of the Namibia Economic Policy Research Unit, said the civil service wage bill remained the main set-back for the government. He warned that that expenditure, which was 45 percent of total spending, could not be sustained for much longer.

"With a 3.5 percent increase in civil service funded posts projected in the new budget, it will be increasingly difficult to reduce the wage bill,"

Melber said. He welcomed the minister's recommendation that another round of civil service pay increases, scheduled for April 1, be postponed indefinitely.

Emilie van Zyl, an economist with Bank Windhoek, expressed satisfaction that issues such as transparency and accountability within government ministries, concern about corruption, rising unemployment, sluggish growth and

the uneven distribution of income had been tackled.

Van Zyl also welcomed the emphasis on small business development and higher economic growth in the private sector. "Cabinet's endorsement for a drought contingency fund is a realistic step which will negate the need for additional drought budgets."

Cobie Loffy-Eaton, an economist with a stockbroking firm, said it was unclear how

the aims of poverty and government expenditure reduction would be reached. But, he had welcomed the emphasis placed on privatisation, which he said, was the best way of allowing ordinary citizens to get a stake in companies.

But, one of the areas of concern was the 41 percent increase in the defence vote to \$100 million. — Independent Foreign Service/Africa Information Afrique

CT (BR) 20/3/97 (221)

Namco expands its explorations

David McKay

(221)
26/3/97

NAMCO, the Namibia-listed diamond exploration company, has expanded its explorations by a fifth, gaining control of several concessions in Africa with a combined area of 926km², it said.

The company, which numbers Sanlam among its major shareholders, holds about 5 500km² in five prospective marine concessions off the western coast of Namibia and SA.

Namco is the second largest concession holder in Namibia.

A spokesman said yesterday that the additional concessions were situated in Angola and Zaire.

The company has acquired a 42,5% interest in three diamond concessions totalling 664km² in Angola's Luanda Norte province along the Chicapa river.

The agreement over the Angolan concessions is subject to approval and calls for capex of R11m (\$2,5m).

Namco will dredge the riverine deposits and explore the alluvial flats, the spokesman said.

In Zaire, Namco has bought a 70% interest in 10 exploration licenses, and a mining permit totalling 262km² in a district about 500km from the capital Kinshasa, close to the Angolan border, she said.

Preliminary work had been conducted on the concessions by Namco's partners with values of \$110 a carat being estimated.

An initial exploration programme costing up to \$600 000 is being planned for Zaire.

Namco said it had gained a strategic holding in a potentially productive area in Zaire.

It was monitoring its commitment in Zaire in terms of the uncertain political situation, the spokesman said. In further developments on its Namibian and SA concessions, a chartered vessel to mine off the Namibian coastline for five years is scheduled to arrive in July.

A 50 ton an hour separation plant would also be installed. Namco's mining system would be completed, on schedule, in August, she said.

In the past, Namco has set itself a capacity production target of about 500 000 carats a year from its operations in Namibia and SA.

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Mercenary recruitment 'will destabilise Namibia'

WINDHOEK — Namibian Defence Minister Phillemon Malima said he had received reports that SA company Executive Outcomes was recruiting Namibians for training in Sierra Leone to destabilise Namibia.

Malima told the national assembly on Tuesday that Gen Hans Dreyer, the former leader of the feared SA Police counter-insurgency unit Koevoet, was involved in the operation.

He said Dreyer, persona non grata in Namibia, was recruiting from Angola. The organisation claims to offer only military advice but is said to supply trained mercenaries as well.

Malima said he had documentary proof that members of SA's former South West Africa Territory Force and Koevoet, presently in Angola, were preparing to destabilise Namibia.

"I wish to sound a stern warning that should such an attempt by these elements to destabilise the country prove to be true, the country's security institutions, defence force included, will act to protect and defend the prevailing peace, stability and democracy," he warned.

Earlier a group of former territory force and Koevoet members, in a letter to President Sam Nujoma on April 3, threatened "suicide attacks" or "bombs" within 10 days if their pensions were not paid. "We can go the way of suicide attacks and this is not a joke — if it can happen in other parts of the world why not in Namibia," the letter said.

The Namibian government rejected the threats. "We reject this ultimatum, and we do not accept threats," Namibian Prime Minister Hage Geingob told the national assembly.

Dreyer denied the claims made against him and said he would decide what action to take after studying them.

"I played my part in the war for a legitimate government. I would not now fight a legitimate government," Dreyer said from his farm in Brits. "Besides, I am too old for war." — Sapa.

PH 15/4/97 (221)

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AFRICA 13

Fears for democracy in Namibia

Graham Hopwood in Windhoek

NAMIBIAN President Sam Nujoma has given his clearest signal yet that he will stand for a third term as head of state, despite the fact that the Constitution limits the incumbent to two terms.

He told Parliament last week: "I am still young and if the people of Namibia want me to continue making a contribution I will continue to do so."

He was responding to a question from Democratic Coalition of Namibia leader, Moses Katjuongua, as to whether he would follow Nelson Mandela's example and give clear

notice of his intention to stand down to ensure a stable handover.

"You can see the difference between me and President Nelson Mandela," the 67-year old Nujoma said, to the sound of vigorous table thumping from MPs from the ruling party, the South West African People's Organisation (Swapo).

Expectations that the third term would become a *fait accompli* hardened when a Swapo council last month called on him to serve as president "as long as he was medically fit".

It is now expected that Swapo's congress, due in May, will endorse the proposal, paving the way for the party to

use its parliamentary majority to push through a constitutional amendment.

At present, article 29 of the Constitution limits the president to a maximum of two five-year terms.

Nujoma's words have set off alarm bells among the opposition, human rights groups, and Western diplomats, who have criticised Nujoma for making the third term an issue of age, rather than constitutional principle.

The National Society for Human Rights said in a statement: "It is not the age of a president but the constitutional provisions and restrictions which matter. If this was not the case then United States President

Bill Clinton would remain in power until he reaches the age of Nelson Mandela."

A group of former Swapo members detained by the movement in exile, called on Nujoma to drop his commitment to a third term and instead promote the importance of Article 29 of the Constitution to ensure a smooth handover of presidential powers.

The chairman of the Breaking the Wall of Silence group, Samson Ndeikwila, said it was a myth that Namibia has nobody capable of taking over from Nujoma. "The truth is that there are people in Namibia who can and will perform the same or even better than President Nujoma."

An unnamed European diplomat told *The Namibian* newspaper that Nujoma's intention to stand again was "very worrying," as Namibia had been regarded as a democratic role model.

Nujoma's announcement was made without consultation with other leading figures in Swapo, according to party insiders.

Despite concern within Swapo's top echelons about Nujoma's unilateral decision, no one is expected to break ranks and oppose the proposed change to the Constitution at next month's party congress.

Many members of Swapo are lukewarm about a third term for Nujoma, but feel it would avoid ugly in-fighting between possible successors, which may open up ethnic tensions within the party.

Namibian debate over viability of water scheme heats up

BD 14/5/97

(221)

WINDHOEK — The heated debate over the viability of a hydroelectric scheme at Epupa on the Kunene River in northwestern Namibia continues.

Since plans for Epupa were announced in 1991, environmental and minority rights groups have vehemently opposed the government's arguments that Epupa provides clean, renewable and cheap energy for Namibia's future development needs, and provides employment and meaningful development for their Himba people living in the area.

Groups like Survival International also point out that the scheme would destroy the habitat of the nomadic Himba and put under water their ancestral graves and emergency grazing.

Two sites are under investigation. The first of the sites would put 350km² of land under water at Epupa itself. The other option, Baines, would cover only 45km² and cause less ecological and social damage.

But it depends on the Gove Dam in Angola, the malfunctioning of which has in the past been to

the detriment of Namibia's existing hydroelectric scheme based at Ruacana.

Rolf Fahle of the local Society of Environment Protection, Education and Development (Seed), has dismissed Epupa as a "white elephant" and a "debt trap".

Seed, apparently supported by German-based Gesellschaft für aktives Umweltbewusstsein instead advocates wind power for fulfilling Namibia's future needs for cheap and renewable power and has promised to forward its study on this topic to the national power utility Nampower and the mines and energy ministry.

But Nampower's senior general manager for technical services, Imker Hoogenhout, has dismissed these claims as "blatantly incorrect". He says while a N\$23m feasibility study under way will determine whether the proposed scheme is indeed the best option, indications are that it is a "very, very good option", the economic and financial viability of which "has clearly been shown".

"Neither Epupa, nor wind, nor gas (from the Kudu gasfields cur-

rently being explored), nor solar energy can be developed without incurring debt," he said, but could not identify an institution willing to lend Namibia the \$480m investment costs being estimated for the scheme.

Seed also claims that the power purchase agreement, signed between Nampower and the SA power utility Eskom two years ago, nullifies Namibia's requirement to produce its own electricity "because power import prices from SA are much cheaper than producing power in Namibia".

A detailed study on gas from the Kudu fields off the Namibian coast as an alternative was put forward by German-based group Urgewald and Earthlife Africa's Namibia branch last year.

The feasibility study on the hydroelectric scheme based at Epupa, conducted by a consortium of Swedish, Norwegian, Namibian and Angolan consultants, is to be completed by October this year and a final report is to be submitted to the Namibian and Angolan governments by April next year for a final decision. — Sapa-DPA.

Swapo wants third term for Nujoma

ARG 2/6/97 (221)

Windhoek - Namibia's ruling Swapo party has adopted a resolution to amend the country's constitution to allow President Sam Nujoma a third term in office.

Mr Nujoma said he was deeply moved and would make himself available "to answer the call of duty and to serve my people in whatever capacity".

The constitution stipulates only two five-year presidential terms.

The amendment would apply only in Mr Nujoma's case and all future presidents would serve only two terms, said Information and Broadcasting Minister

Ben Amathila. The resolution was among the many announced yesterday at the end of Swapo's second congress in an independent Namibia.

Mr Nujoma was re-elected party president unopposed, a position he has held since April 1960. Swapo Vice-President Hendrik Witbooi beat off a challenge by Prime Minister Hage Geingob to keep his post, winning 58 percent of votes to Mr Geingob's 41 percent.

Fisheries and Marine Resources Minister Hifikepunye Pohamba was elected Swapo's new secretary-general, replacing Labour and Manpower Development Min-

ister Moses Garoeb, who did not make himself available for re-election because of poor health.

Unionist and Khomas regional governor John Pandeni was elected to the new post of deputy secretary-general.

About 500 delegates from 13 regions attended the weekend congress.

In future, 30 percent of candidates for the 58 elected positions on Swapo's 70-member Central Committee will be women.

Half the candidates in all local and regional elections from now on will also be women. - Sapa

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Lobbyists oppose move to extend Nujoma's rule

BD 5/6/97 (221)

WINDHOEK — The ruling South West African People's Organisation (Swapo) party has endorsed an amendment of the nation's constitution to allow President Sam Nujoma to rule for another five-year term, amid protests from pro-democracy lobbyists.

The country's constitution currently stipulates that the president's term shall be limited to not more than five two-year terms. This meant that Nujoma was supposed to vacate office in 1999. However, at its second congress held in Windhoek at the end of May, Swapo endorsed an earlier proposal by its central committee that Nujoma be allowed to lead the country beyond the year 2000.

The central committee had recommended that the constitution be changed so that the country's first president be able to serve two terms of office.

The motion put forward by the central committee argued that the first term of office served by Nujoma should not be regarded as a term of office in relation to the constitution's limitations on the number of terms served.

Nujoma was elected by the Constituent Assembly and not by popular vote in the 1989 election (which was only for parties). He won his first mandate by popular vote in 1994 in presidential elections. The motion also endorsed Nujoma, as Swapo president, to be the party's presidential candidate in the 1999 poll.

In its preamble to its motion, the central committee cited Nujoma's long and unbroken history of tested leadership qualities and his role as the "founding father of the nation" as reasons for a third term.

Prior to the committee's motion, the party's Elders Council had unanimously agreed at its congress that Nujoma be given a chance to lead the country beyond the year 2000. — AIA

□ NAMIBIA

CT(BR) 10/7/97

(221)

Donor countries have concerns on burgeoning debt

Namibia's increasing government debt and high civil service wage bill are worrying donor countries, who have called for strong corrective action. The debt has soared from 2 percent of gross domestic product to 21 percent in the seven years since independence and now totals \$622 million.

Salaries for civil servants account for 55 percent of the total budget of \$1.2 billion. Roger Leenders, the EU's ambassador to Namibia, said although the debt was low compared with other developing countries, the steep rise since independence was a cause for concern. He said of the high amount of spending on salaries: "We know the finance minister is being encouraged to implement the plans of downsizing. At the same time we must point out that an increase of 3.5 percent in funded posts is not indicative of downsizing."

Nangolo Mbumba, the finance minister, described the increase in debt as "disturbing", but said it was still manageable. George Ward, the US ambassador, criticised the Namibian government for not carrying out privatisation. — *Independent Foreign Service/AIA, Windhoek*

Nujoma forbids all public protests without permission

BY ERIKA KUEZEL
Windhoek

No more public protests without the written approval of the police! - is the gist of a public announcement made by Namibia's President Sam Nujoma.

It follows a demonstration for jobs by about 600 ex-combatants in Oshakati during which four regional councillors of the South West Africa People's Organisation of Namibia (Swapo) were held hostage.

In a stern address on public radio and television, the president said no person had the right to "attack physically, molest, hold hostage or interfere with other citizens," as had happened at Oshakati.

Therefore, Nujoma decreed that in future no citizen would be allowed to hold public demonstrations "without the approval and written permission by the authority of the Namibian police".

The president went to great lengths to emphasise that all citizens had the right under the constitution to demonstrate and to express their grievances to the government or other structures they disagreed with.

"I want to make it abundantly clear that political parties have the freedom to organise, politi-

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cise, campaign, recruit members from society," he said, adding that this also applied to trade unions and members of civil society.

However, citizens would from now on be able to do so "only after obtaining permission to hold such demonstrations".

The decree, the first of its kind in independent Namibia, has raised fears that the country may be returning to the days of apartheid, when laws like the Riotous Assembly Act and the Notification and Prohibition of Meetings Act were used to undermine public opinion and opposition to the state.

The Legal Assistance Centre (LAC) has issued a statement in which it said it has been unable to find any law requiring persons to notify and obtain the approval of the Namibian police before holding a demonstration or procession.

Therefore "any action taken against peaceful demonstrators who do not obtain permission from the Namibian police would be both unlawful and unconstitutional".

The Legal Assistance Centre further stated that should any person be injured or arrested during a peaceful demonstration, they could sue the minister of home affairs for damages and

that "the Namibian police could be stopped by order of the High Court from taking action against demonstrators".

While the LAC agreed with the president that persons have a right to demonstrate only if the demonstration is peaceful, it said the judiciary would deal with people not adhering to the constitutional provisions.

The demonstration at Oshakati that sparked the presidential decree followed a two-week protest for jobs by former fighters in Windhoek, which had the government scrambling for solutions.

The protest dissolved once President Nujoma had personally promised the protesters jobs in various government ministries and projects, as well as private companies.

About 23 000 former fighters of the People's Liberation Army of Namibia (Plan) and the South West Africa Territory Force (SWATF), as well as the special unit of the former South African Police, "Koevoet", were demobilised with independence.

While there are those who have found employment, seven years after independence most are still seeking to "reap its fruits". - Sapa-dpa.

Nujoma's actions flouting constitution

Many Namibians fear that their president is adopting a course that will undermine the constitution and civil liberties, writes David Lush in Windhoek

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Nujoma... will he expose Namibia's constitution to Zimbabwe-style changes?

PRESIDENT Sam Nujoma's recent declaration banning unauthorised demonstrations was another in a series of seemingly spontaneous decisions taken by the Namibian head of state which have put him on a collision course with the country's constitution.

Since declaring on national television on July 10 that members of the public could not stage protests without prior police permission, Nujoma has not explained how his ban will be enforced. In terms of the constitution, the president only has powers of decree during a state of emergency. Otherwise, freedom of assembly and speech are enshrined in the Namibian constitution's bill of rights.

Human rights organisations agree that the ban — imposed by Nujoma following demonstrations by unemployed former guerrillas during which four town councillors were temporarily taken hostage in the northern town of Oshana — is illegal. "Any action taken against peaceful demonstrators who do not obtain permission from the Namibian police would be both unlawful and unconstitutional," says the Legal Assistance Centre.

The day after Nujoma's announcement saw the third in a series of weekly protests in Windhoek by people calling for an end to violence against women and children — a cause supported by Nujoma. The demonstration went ahead without incident, even though no prior police permission had been sought by the protesters.

On the one hand, members of government and the leadership of the ruling Swapo party often try to suppress dissent and debate on issues they find sensitive for fear of the conflict they feel may follow. On the other, they point to the seven years of unprecedented peace since independence as a sign that democracy is flourishing and the country is a safe bet for investors.

For instance, after extolling the virtues of Namibia's post-independence record of stability during the country's independence celebrations in March, Prime Minister Hugo Gombob was in June motivating new intelligence services legislation on the grounds that Namibia faced "threats to national security and public safety", which he said included terrorism, the instigation of ethnic strife, labour unrest and tax fraud.

Nujoma's occasional tirades against the media come from a similar fear of threats of upheaval. In December, the president branded the often outspoken

private media as "an enemy", "reactionary" and foreign-owned. The same month he heaped similar scorn on the gay community.

Bad judgment resulted in another breach of the constitution last year when Nujoma unilaterally appointed lawyer Ephraim Kanuto as ombudsman, contrary to the constitution which states that the appointment should be made on the recommendation of the Judicial Commission. Once his error had been pointed out in the media, Nujoma had to reseat Kanuto's appointment and wait for the Judicial Commission, which instead recommended public service commissioner Biesse Gawanu, who was subsequently appointed by the president.

With the constitution working as an effective brake on those in authority, there is considerable concern both within and outside the country at moves to amend the

constitution to allow Nujoma to serve a third term as president.

While few doubt Nujoma's ability to rule, the precedent of amending the country's supreme law to accommodate an individual is one which many people want to avoid.

Chapter three of the constitution — laying down fundamental rights such as the right to life, liberty, property and a fair trial, as well as free expression, media freedom and privacy — cannot be amended. However, with Swapo commanding the parliamentary two-thirds majority needed to amend other sections of the constitution, some four politically expedient changes may be made, as has happened in Zimbabwe.

Zimbabwe's constitution has been amended 14 times since independence in 1980, and many of the checks and balances essential to constitutional governance, not to mention a sound economy, have

been removed.

Nujoma's commitment to "third generation" human rights such as the right to food, shelter, health and education is unquestionable. He ardently promotes women's equality and the rights of children, both of which are enshrined in Namibia's bill of rights, while education and health together accounted for 41% of this year's budget. (The defence ministry's budget jumped from R293.8m last year to R415.6m for the current financial year.)

However, Nujoma's commitment to more awkward "first generation rights" is more reserved. He has no qualms about taking Democratic Republic of Congo President Laurent Kabila, after whom a Windhoek street is now named, despite unresolved questions about human rights atrocities carried out by Kabila's forces during their overthrow of Mobutu

Seso Soko.

Attempts to discuss Swapo's own human rights record during Namibia's liberation war are also swept under the carpet, with Nujoma again going on national television last year to denigrate a book on the subject. Faced with a rise in crime shortly after independence, Nujoma urged citizens to arm themselves against criminals, and shoot first and ask questions later. In this regard, Nujoma projects rather than shapes public opinion.

The country's liberal constitution — held up by the international community as an African role model — was drafted behind closed doors by politicians and international advisers within two months of the election of a constituent assembly in 1989. The public was then given less than a month to comment on the draft, before it was approved by the as-

sembly after a five-day debate. Therefore it is little wonder many Namibians have problems understanding the constitution in which they had little say.

Asked to explain the illegal working conditions of labourers on communal farms in the far north of the country, one farmer told The Namibian newspaper that the provisions of the Labour Act were "not traditional" and were therefore unworkable. Legislation making men and women equal partners in marriage roused heated debate both inside and out of parliament, despite the fact that existing laws discriminated against married women and were therefore unconstitutional.

The lack of public understanding of the rights enshrined in the constitution appears to extend to those tasked with enforcing the law. At least 26 charges related to the torture of prisoners by police officers in the north are currently being investigated.

Meanwhile, the National Society for Human Rights has accused the Namibian security forces of being responsible for the death and disappearance of 1 768 Angolans from the former UNITA stronghold of Cuando-Cubango. Police have since denied the society's claims.

In a country with few other reliable checks and balances, the judiciary remains crucial to the application of the constitution. Yet some members of the ruling party appear unhappy with the constraints an independent judiciary has put on the exercise of executive power.

Commenting on the draft National Central Intelligence Bill in parliament last week, Swapo MP and trade union leader, Peter Ilunga, challenged the role of the judiciary in overseeing the intelligence agency. "Why must the director-general (of the intelligence agency) make an application to the judge for a warrant or authorisations so that the intelligence service can carry out its duties?" he asked. "We already have a problem with the judiciary in the sense that the police first have to obtain a warrant to search for stolen goods, but by the time that they obtain it, the culprits have already received the stolen goods."

Judging by the popularity of radio phone-in programmes and people's readiness to stage demonstrations, free expression and the right to assembly are two rights that are understood by many Namibians. Which might explain Nujoma's long silence on how he intends to apply his ban on public demonstrations.

Namibian tribe seeks court interdict

(221)

BD 6/8/97

David Lush

WINDHOEK — Lawyers representing a tribe opposed to a government-backed hydroelectric scheme are asking the High Court for protection from harassment and intimidation by Namibian police.

The request for an interdict follows the disruption by armed police of a meeting between lawyers from a public-interest law firm and their clients — the Ovahimba — who live in the area of the proposed Epupa Dam on the Cunene River in the north.

The Legal Assistance Cen-

tre has also asked the court to declare unconstitutional a piece of pre-independence legislation governing public demonstrations. The law is believed to be the basis of President Sam Nujoma's recent ban on such action without police permission.

Proclamation AG23 of 1989, passed by Louis Pienaar, SA's last administrator-general of Namibia, requires that police be given written notice of any rally or march.

Feasibility and environmental impact studies are being carried out on the proposed dam, which govern-

ment hopes will provide electricity for the entire country. Namibia currently relies on SA for power for at least half the year.

If the dam is built, the tribe's ancestral burial sites and grazing land will be flooded. The project is meant to depend on the outcome of the studies, but government has said the dam will go ahead.

Police disrupted two attempted meetings between the centre's lawyers and their Ovahimba clients on July 26 and 27, arguing that the meetings "were illegal".

The centre said the outdoor

meetings were private consultations with clients on the progress of the hydroelectric scheme. In his affidavit to the High Court, Chief Hikuminue Kapika said his community had not been properly informed about the dam.

"The government rarely meets us to discuss issues of concern to us." The meeting was held out of doors, Kapika said, "because it is our custom to meet in the open air".

Kapika said the law infringed on his people's constitutional right to practise their tradition of holding public gatherings to discuss issues.

Police ordered to stop harassing tribe

David Lush

WINDHOEK — The High Court has ordered the Namibian police to stop harassing a tribe opposed to a hydroelectric scheme and ruled that a ban on demonstrations held without police permission was unconstitutional.

The Windhoek High Court has ordered that members of the Ovahimba community be allowed to meet their lawyers to discuss the planned scheme on the Cunene River between Namibia and Angola. If built, the dam will flood ancestral burial sites and land used by the tribe to graze cattle.

On July 26 and 27 armed police and security agents disrupted "illegal" meetings between the Ovahimba and their lawyers, called to discuss progress on the dam, saying official permission

was not given for the gathering.

In a judgment on Wednesday, the High Court granted a temporary interdict preventing police from intimidating the Ovahimba, saying the community should be allowed to meet lawyers without permission from the authorities.

The court also ruled as unconstitutional legislation — Proclamation AG 23 of 1989 passed by the former SA administration — believed to have been used as the basis of President Sam Nujoma's July 9 ban on demonstrations held without permission. The government did not oppose the granting of Wednesday's interdict, and has until October 20 to challenge the order becoming final.

Feasibility and environmental impact studies are being carried out into the Epupa dam scheme which government hopes will pro-

vide electricity for the entire country. Namibia relies on SA for power for at least six months a year. The project is meant to depend on the outcome of the studies, but government has insisted the dam will go ahead.

In his affidavit to the Windhoek High Court, Chief Hikumine Kapika of the Ovahimba tribe said the police actions had infringed on his people's constitutional right to practise their tradition of holding gatherings to discuss issues of concern to the tribe.

He also said his community had not been properly informed by government about the dam and that "government rarely meets us to discuss issues of concern to us".

The meetings with the tribe's lawyers had been held out of doors because it was the tribe's custom to meet in the open air, he said.

BD 8/8/97

(221)

SMUGGLED cigarettes worth last for a while So far this

Namibian leaders plan their golden handshakes

Christof Maletsky

WINDHOEK — The Namibian cabinet's plan to provide extra tax-free retirement benefits for top politicians and senior members of the armed forces has raised concern among public servants who are expecting retrenchment.

About 60 000 public servants are waiting for government to implement the recommendations of the Wages and Salary Commission, which called for the number of posts to be cut, but promised that salaries and benefits should improve for those who had professional skills.

A leaked cabinet report proposed that a war veterans' subvention bill be passed to provide golden handshakes for President Sam Nujoma, his cabinet, parliamentarians and senior members of the armed forces who served in the first two governments once they retired from politics.

Nujoma will be best off under the proposal, which Information Minister Ben Amathila said was still being considered by a special treasury committee and the Public Service Commission.

In addition to his normal pension benefits, Nujoma will qualify in the first 10 years after retirement for a tax-free allowance equal to his annual salary of N\$360 000, an annual entertainment allowance equal to that of a minister, three cars (one Mercedes Benz, one BMW and one 4X4), a "suitably furnished" office, round-the-clock security for himself and his immediate family, four internal air trips and two ex-

ternal trips a year.

Nujoma can be accompanied by three family members on each of the trips.

The state will also pay for his staff for 10 years, which consists of a housekeeper, two cooks, one laundry man, two domestic servants, one gardener, one private secretary, one personal secretary, one office attendant, one aide de camp, four security personnel and four drivers.

Prime Minister Hage Geingob will get a winding-up allowance of N\$600 000 a year over 10 years, two cars, fulltime security and staff consisting of one housekeeper, one cook, one domestic servant, one gardener, one personal secretary, three security personnel and two drivers.

His deputy Hendrik Witbooi will over five years receive a N\$552 000 winding-up allowance, one car, two security officers, one personal secretary, one housekeeper, one cook, one gardener and two drivers.

The ministers, speaker of the national assembly and the national council chairman will receive winding-up allowances of N\$450 000 each while the deputies will get N\$350 000 each.

Other MPs and senior army officers will each get winding-up allowances of N\$250 000, one car and a driver for five years.

Amathila refused to go into detail about the proposed perks, but said a bill would be tabled in parliament dealing with the matter.

The National Society for Human Rights said yesterday the "scandalous" cabinet action was a

self-enriching exercise at the taxpayers' expense.

The society's executive director, Phil ya Nangoloh, said that the ruling South West African People's Organisation had been frittering away the socioeconomic rights of its fellow Namibians ever since independence.

He cited other examples such as the N\$90m purchase of a Falcon 900B luxury jet for Nujoma in 1992 at a time when he was appealing for N200m in drought aid.

In 1994, another jet, Lear 31A, was bought for N\$20m, mainly for the prime minister's use, while cabinet also "secretly" approved a 100% salary increment for cabinet members and other parliamentarians following the recommendations of the Wages and Salary Commission in 1995.

"However, such recommendations were ... largely ignored with respect to the bulk of the civil service," ya Nangoloh said.

The Namibian government said earlier it would implement the recommendations of the Wages and Salary Commission, which tabled its report in November 1995, but froze plans in April this year citing a lack of funds.

The commission said in its report that discontent over pay was one of the main reasons why employees were not committed to their jobs.

Only this week, about 1 200 nurses from two state hospitals in Windhoek marched to the health ministry to demand overtime payouts of about N\$20m which they have been trying to get from the government since 1992.

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Pricey perks won't tempt Nujoma out of third term

(221)

MFG 22-28/8/97

Tangeni Amupadhi

While Namibia's ruling party Swapo is backing President Sam Nujoma for a third term, his government is offering him a lucrative package — some say as an inducement to step down.

Opposition parties suspect that the retirement package — leaked to the local media last week — is an attempt to persuade Nujoma to leave and thus to safeguard the country's parliamentary democracy.

There is clearly unease at Nujoma running for a third term, a move which makes it necessary to amend the Constitution: at present, the president's term of office is limited to two five-year terms.

Despite the speculation the government maintains that the packages — extended to Nujoma's Cabinet, parliamentarians and a few hand-picked military top brass — are unrelated to the issue of a third term. And, in any case, both matters have already been agreed, according to the Deputy Minister for Information, Ignatius Shikwameni.

He disclosed this week what many have long suspected: the ruling South West Africa People's Organisation (Swapo) has finally decided that Nujoma will rule for another five years after his current and final term expires in 2000.

He said that Swapo, which controls two-thirds of Parliament and can amend the Constitution, approached lawyers for advice on how to change a clause so Nujoma (67) can rule Namibia until 2005.

"This is only a special for Nujoma," said Shikwameni, "we don't want to send the wrong signal. We want to make sure that after him no one else should rule for more than two terms."

Shikwameni also said the Cabinet has "in principle" agreed to the retirement perks, which are in addition to existing pension packages. It is the details that were being worked out, he said.

When Nujoma retires he will receive R360 000 (his current annual salary) tax-free a year for 10 years. He will also get a Mercedes-Benz, a BMW and a 4x4; 24 hours' security for him and his immediate family; four internal and four international air trips — accompanied by three family members — at the state's expense, as well as entertainment allowances.

Nujoma will have a housekeeper, two cooks, a person to do his laundry, two domestic workers, a gardener, a private secretary, a personal secretary, an office attendant, an aide-de-camp, four security personnel and four drivers.

The proposed packages have been criticised even by Swapo parliamentarians, who privately indicated to the *Mail & Guardian* they would oppose any "moves aimed at self-enrichment at the expense of the country".

They found it ironic that government officials were "sharing the cake" among themselves, while plans to trim and restructure the civil service have been shelved because of lack of funds.

Opposition parties described the hefty packages as a direction "down the Mobutu road".

Court ruling could lead to flood of lawsuits

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ARG 26/8/97

Windhoek - Southern African mining companies could face a flood of lawsuits as a result of the British court ruling which enables a former Rossing mine employee to sue the company for compensation for cancer.

Mineworkers' Union of Namibia (NUM) secretary-general Peter Naholo told The Namibian newspaper last week that Rossing was just one of the many mining companies which could be affected by the court's decision.

"The whole exercise will spread over the country. The door is open for us and we will get them one by one," he said.

The MUN knew of many cases where people fallen ill as a result of working on mines in the country. This included the Tsumeb Corporation's underground lead mine, which was a subsidiary of Goldfields, South Africa.

"There are many of those cases," Mr Naholo said.

Under Namibian law workers cannot sue their employers for illness and injury brought on by poor working conditions.

British lawyer Richard Meeran was in Namibia to take up the cases of other Rossing employees who may have contracted cancer from working at the mine.

Mr Meeran believes workers at other mines owned by multi-national companies could also be in a position to sue for compensation for illnesses contracted as a result of poor working conditions.

He said at least four new compensation claims could soon be filed against Rossing in the British courts.

The four have already indicated that they would be suing the uranium mine and its parent company, Rio Tinto Zinc, following the decision in Britain's highest court

of appeal to grant United Kingdom national Edward Connelly permission to claim legal aid in order to sue Rossing for compensation through the British courts.

Namibians Petrus Naibab and Petrus Hwaibe, together with the relatives of British national Peter Carlson, who died of cancer three years ago, and an unnamed Scotsman will be suing the company.

It took Mr Connelly - a former Rossing engineer who worked at the mine between 1979 and 1982 - more than three years to convince the British courts that he had the right to use the British legal system in his fight for compensation.

Mr Connelly was diagnosed with throat cancer in 1986 and is claiming ND3 million from Rossing in compensation.

Me Meeran said the Connelly ruling had stirred up interest among other multi-national companies. - Sapa

Uganda's 'renaissance' shaken by unrest

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ET 28/8/97

INCREASING civil war is threatening Uganda's fragile rebuilding process, writes Contributing Editor **JAN VAN ECK**.

THE first impression of Uganda is of a country and people determined to rise up out of the morass of destruction and neglect they inherited when President Museveni overthrew the regime of President Obote in 1986.

Signs of development are everywhere.

This is the country of Africa's new "star" — President Yoweri Museveni, the man who is reputedly heralding in a completely new African leadership — a leadership which will, according to many, usher in the long-awaited "renaissance" that it is hoped will lift Africa out of its decades-old stagnation and increasing marginalisation.

In the capital Kampala, a sprawling city spread across numerous green hills, you are struck by the number of new high-rise buildings and the many dilapidated ones being restored. It confirms that the first impression gained on the highway from Entebbe airport to Kampala was not wrong. But, as is so frequently the case, first impressions can paint a very one-dimensional picture.

Despite the signs of stability and development and of the moves to create an inclusive, participatory government, the government of President Museveni — after 11 years in power — is faced with ongoing and, some say, increasing civil war, resistance and criticism on various fronts.

At the time of writing, the Ugandan government was being opposed by no less than six Ugandan rebel groups, either actively engaged in, or planning, armed insurrection.

Most threatening among these is the Sudan-based "Lotes Resistance Army" (LRA), which has been waging a war against Museveni's government since 1986. Despite numerous concerted

efforts by the Ugandan People's Defence Force (UPDF) to crush them, the LRA has made the northern third of Uganda (bordering Sudan) virtually ungovernable.

Despite statements by government spokesmen that the war in the north against the LRA is "almost over", the local population continues to suffer incredible hardship and brutality at the hands of armed groups. Military vehicles have to escort private vehicles, while development in this still underdeveloped region has been severely affected.

The Museveni government is also being attacked from the west. Despite the takeover by Laurent Kabila in the former Zaire, now the Democratic Republic of Congo, in which Museveni played an important role, Ugandan rebel groups have been able to regroup in eastern Congo and now regularly strike across the border into Uganda.

Foremost among these is the Alliance of Democratic Forces (ADF) which has sown havoc and terror among the population of western and south-western Uganda. It is estimated that up to 100 000 civilians have been displaced. So serious does the Ugandan army consider the situation to be that it recently announced it would start concentrating civilians in "protected villages" (something it has already done across the north).

And while another thorn in the side of the government, the Nile West Bank Front, a splinter group, was recently disbanded, the Uganda National Rescue Front (UNRF) has started renewed attacks from Sudan into north-western Uganda.

Other rebel groups which are not yet active include: the Nairobi-based Uganda Federal Freedom Organisation (UFFO) which wants to attack Uganda from neighbouring Kenya; the National Democratic Alliance, whose leader is in Germany; the Uganda Salvation Front and the Uganda People's Army (both London-based).

A number of these rebel movements accuse Museveni of being a "Tutsi empire



MUSEVENI — AFRICA'S STAR: Threats mount on all sides.

builder" and of being the "mastermind" behind Kabila's "Tutsi occupation" of former Zaire. This regionalisation of the Hutu-Tutsi divide could have serious destabilising consequences for individual countries and the region as a whole.

Ordinary Ugandans definitely do not underestimate the threat posed by these rebel groups.

After I had bought a book on the politics of northern Uganda, the shop assistant in Kampala demanded to know, therefore, whether I was not interested in the "terrible situation" in western Uganda (the area she comes from)?

And the wonderfully talkative (and very well-informed) taxi-driver who drove me to Kampala stressed the dangers the rebel action posed to both the lives of ordinary Ugandans and the Museveni government (which he supported). His main concern was the situation in the north where he said rebel activity was creating fear as well as preventing development. This made ordinary people feel that the Museveni government was doing "nothing" for them and made them willing to support the LRA rebels.

In an interview in *The Defender*, a Ugandan journal on human rights, Dr G W Kanyehamba, a senior presidential

adviser on human rights affairs, was even more to the point when asked why the government had not been able to defeat the LRA in the north.

He said that many people in the north supported the idea of overthrowing the Museveni government because, since coming to power in 1986, it had shifted the balance of power away from the north and had given it to the south. By overthrowing Museveni they thought that the dominant role of the north could be restored.

"There are certain politicians, including some members of parliament and some leaders at local level from the north, who believe their own salvation lies in the military conquest of Museveni and the 'movement system' government in which all Ugandan politicians — as individuals — are supposed to be able to participate. That is what has perpetuated this war. If many of our leaders in the north were to condemn the rebels and not give sanctuary to them, this war would be no more."

This statement sums up the Ugandan problem.

President Museveni's government is increasingly being opposed not only by armed rebels but also by leaders, regions and sections of the population who feel that, since his takeover in 1986, they have been sidelined and marginalised.

And while the reasons for Museveni's policy not to allow political parties to function may in view of Uganda's history be understandable, his "movement system" has not succeeded in incorporating many of his political opponents.

Not being able to function within the Museveni movement system and, at the same time, not being able to organise on a party-political basis (it is a criminal offence to organise any party-political activities) is creating a growing pool of politically frustrated people who feel they are being pushed into using unconstitutional means to effect change.

Speaking recently in Tanzania, a

spokesperson for the Ugandan Democratic Party warned: "The country has been plunged into dictatorship ... People are afraid to identify with political parties lest they get detained. We are now slaves in our own country. Constitutional reform is needed to prevent attempts at power-seizing such as that used by ... Kabila and in Rwanda."

Being besieged from so many quarters, President Museveni's government is showing increasing impatience with the relatively free press. Under pressure from government, a number of journalists have been dismissed by their newspapers or prosecuted for publishing "false news".

This growing alienation between the government and significant sections of the population — a fact which is readily admitted by government supporters — is an early warning that the Ugandan status quo is very fragile.

In view of the considerable success the Museveni government has had in putting Uganda back on its feet, it would be a tragedy if his government were to collapse or become either paralysed by inaction or driven to inappropriate action.

Maybe the time has arrived for the no-party movement system to be replaced by a more representative and democratic system which will legitimise political action by those who oppose Museveni and his movement system.

South Africa, as a good friend of Museveni's Uganda, could play a critical role in assisting this country to move towards this goal. While President Mandela's initiative to broker peace between the Sudanese government and the Sudan People's Liberation Army (based in southern Sudan) could improve the security situation in northern Uganda, more is needed to address the growing resistance inside Uganda.

□ *Jan van Eck is a senior consultant on Africa at the Centre for Conflict Resolution in Cape Town.*

Namibian MPs 'on a self-enrichment exercise'

Christof Maletsky

(221)

BD 8/9/97

WINDHOEK — A leaked Namibian cabinet document indicates there are plans for taxpayers to pay the salaries of domestic servants employed by ministers and deputy ministers.

This follows news that housing allowances have been more than doubled for ministers and their deputies, and that hefty golden handshakes are in line for senior politicians in addition to their normal pensions.

The leaked document indicated that ministers would get N\$60 000 a year to cover three employees, while deputy ministers would receive about N\$40 000 backdated to July 1.

Information and Broadcasting Minister Ben Amathia confirmed that the cabinet was working on such plans, but would not confirm or deny details.

The total exercise involving domestic servants could cost up to N\$2m a year, and accompanied news on Friday that housing allowances had been more than doubled to R10 000 a month for ministers and to R8 500 for deputies. The housing increases have been backdated to April 1.

A spokesman for the official opposition, the DTA of Namibia, Nico Smit, said a self-enrichment exercise was being implemented by Namibian leaders.

There were about 60 000 public servants who had been waiting for more than a year for promised salary increments to be implemented, Smit said.

Amathia said payments for domestic servants had been discussed in the cabinet. "It is a long process.... The matter will go to parliament once it has been finalised by the cabinet."

He defended the plan on the grounds that ministers and deputies were entitled to perks.

Two weeks ago another leaked report disclosed that in addition to normal pension benefits, President Sam Nujoma would for the first 10 years after retirement qualify for a tax-free allowance equal to his annual salary of N\$360 000; an annual entertainment allowance equal to that of a minister; the use of three cars (a Mercedes-Benz, a BMW and a 4x4); a "suitably furnished" office; round-the-clock security for himself and his immediate family; and four internal air trips and two external trips a year.

Nujoma may be accompanied by three family members on each of the trips. For 10 years the state would pay for his staff — a housekeeper, two cooks, one laundryman, two domestic servants, a gardener, a private secretary, a personal secretary, an office attendant, an aide de camp, four security staff and four drivers.

Prime Minister Hage Geingob would get a retirement allowance of N\$600 000 a year over 10 years, two cars, full-time security and a staff of 10. His deputy Hendrik Witbooi would receive a N\$552 000 allowance for five years, a car and a staff of eight.

Namibia 'boards gravy train'

ET (MR) 9/9/97 (221)

FRAUKE JENSEN

Windhoek — The Namibian government was accused of clambering aboard a gravy train yesterday after a document detailing plans for taxpayers to fork out for cabinet ministers' domestic staff was leaked.

The Democratic Turnhalle Alliance, Namibia's official opposition party, as well as trade unions and student organisations, lashed out at the government for engaging in "an exercise of self-enrichment".

Ben Amathila, the information minister, fended off the criticism, saying the payment of cabinet members' domestic staff formed part of the employment contracts of all top government officials.

The row broke out when the cabinet document was leaked to the Namibian newspaper in Windhoek. It indicated the cabinet had approved unbudgeted

funds for the payments and had already paid N\$1,7 million (about R1,7 million) for ministers and their deputies for their domestic staff.

The document says ministers are to receive N\$60 000 a year for three domestic workers, and deputy ministers N\$40 000, backdated to July 1.

The report follows news of a recent 20 percent salary increase for government ministers and reports that the cabinet was preparing multimillion-dollar tax-free retirement packages for top political and military office bearers.

The packages envisage tax-free golden handshakes of an an-



COMPARISONS *Former Zairean president Mobutu*

PHOTO: AP

nual salary (now at N\$360 000) for the president for 10 years following his retirement, as well as a number of other benefits such as cars and staff.

Proportionally similar packages are also under consideration for the prime minister and his deputy.

Tax-free retirement bonuses for ministers, their deputies, MPs and the military top brass range from N\$250 000 to N\$450 000.

"The cabinet is rapidly creating a record for self-enrichment which surpasses even the example set for African countries by former (Zairean) president

Mobutu Sese Seko," the DTA said.

Mobutu, who died of prostate cancer at the weekend, was overthrown this year after over three decades in power.

The DTA said the cabinet move was particularly arrogant in the light of previous government statements that there was no money for overtime payments or salary adjustments for Namibia's 60 000 public servants.

The national student organisation (Nanso) said the intended cabinet benefits showed a "disturbing degree of selfishness and irresponsibility".

The Namibian Public Workers Union (Napwu) called for a cabinet reshuffle and denounced the move as a "shameless and selfish act of enrichment".

Amathila, trying to defuse the growing arguments over the retirement packages, said they had merely been discussed by the cabinet and would be put to parliament soon for debate.

Namibian govt lied, say unions

Christof Maletsky

BD 10/9/07 (22)

WINDHOEK — Namibian unions, normally an important source of government support, have accused the nation's leaders of lying to the public about their new perks packages, and say they want a cabinet reshuffle.

Some of the larger unions joined opposition politicians yesterday in condemning a range of new perks that government either plans to introduce or has already introduced for senior ruling party members. These include payments for domestic servants employed by ministers and deputy ministers, hefty new housing allowances for ministers and deputies, and plans to pay golden handshakes when politicians retire in addition to their existing pension benefits.

Ranga Haikali of the country's biggest union, the umbrella National Union of Namibian Workers, claimed the leaders were betraying the people

they were elected to serve. "The government's actions are close to provoking a vote of no confidence in the leaders of the ruling party," Haikali said.

He said the perks were not necessary and amounted to a self-enrichment exercise.

"We will seek an audience with the president, prime minister or the cabinet committee of the office of the prime minister," Haikali said.

Government, he alleged, had lied when it denied some perks had already been implemented.

The Namibia Public Workers' Union called for a cabinet reshuffle. Union first deputy president Risto Kapenda said dictatorial political leaders were trying to enrich themselves overnight while the country's public servants — who had been promised increases more than a year ago — were being deprived of reasonable salaries, Kapenda said.

Nujoma denies hand in govt allowance proposals

Christof Maletsky

WINDHOEK — Namibian President Sam Nujoma said yesterday he had not been party to a cabinet plan to award special household allowances and large golden handshakes to political leaders, and pledged to halt the moves.

The reports drew a barrage of criticism from opposition parties as well as the unions, traditionally a key source of support for government, who accused the cabinet of trying to enrich senior politicians at the taxpayers' expense.

Political analysts regard Nujoma's announcement as a slap in Geingob's face, saying Geingob was the moving force behind the retirement packages and had defended the move abroad.

Nujoma has not yet explained how those who had already benefited from the household services allowances would repay the money. Reports indicated that since July 1 ministers and deputy ministers had received more than N\$1,7m in allowances to pay for domestic workers, despite earlier assurances by the government that the payments had not yet been agreed to.

The now scheme was implemented along with "re-calculated" housing, travel and subsistence allowances for top political office-bearers, and backdated to April 1.

Nujoma said he had planned to make his feelings known on the proposed retirement packages at a forthcoming special cabinet meeting on economic and financial issues. But with the issue being publicly debated after "premature" leaks, he had decided to "reassure" the nation that no decision had been taken to implement the proposal.

He said his personal view was that "this proposal will not be implemented because there are already statutory provisions to address retirement benefits for political office-bearers and civil servants".

National Union of Namibian Workers secretary-general Rungu Haikali said the unions' opposition to the new perks indicated that civil society was deeply concerned about the country's future. "We want to advise the cabinet to always consider the morality of their decisions," Haikali said.

Haikali rejected Nujoma's notion that political office bearers were appointees with no security of tenure, and that their need for security beyond their present tenure needed to be taken into account.

Nujoma argued most of Namibia's political leaders only started to earn a normal income late in their lives, as prior to independence they were in prison or else working full-time for the liberation movement.

(221) 97D 18/9/97

Sowetan 30/9/97 (221)

Namibia - gagging the media

By Christhof Maletsky

WINDHOEK - Namibia's widely respected constitution guarantees free speech - but seven years after independence the government is being accused of trying to stifle media investigations into issues such as corruption.

Journalists in the former South African colony are protesting against government proposals to clamp down on leaks of official documents with threats of jail for refusal to reveal sources.

Media workers see the move as a gross violation of constitutionally guaranteed rights of free expression in a country that has been held up as a model for democracy in Africa.

They fear the measure could be used to stifle efforts to expose high-level corruption.

The authorities have been embarrassed by a series of leaks, including a case in which cabinet papers revealed plans to give political and military leaders big tax-free retirement packages - subsequently dropped after a public outcry.

A draft motion now under consideration would empower a parliamentary committee to order people to reveal the

Efforts to expose corruption stifled by a clampdown on 'official leaks'

source of leaks of classified information. Those refusing to do so would face a maximum penalty of five years in jail and a fine of 20 000 Namibian dollars (R20 000).

The measure could also prevent journalists from interviewing MPs on matters such as new legislation prior to it being tabled in parliament.

It comes on top of a 1995 law barring civil servants from releasing unauthorised information, even if the disclosure is in the public interest - for example, exposing corrupt practice or a security threat.

Private property

David Lush, chairman of the Journalists Association of Namibia (JAN), said that, in the absence of a freedom of information Act, journalists sometimes had to rely on "leaks" to do their job.

"Contrary to what the government seems to think, government documentation is not 'private property' - it is public property, and the public has a right to know what is contained within such documentation," he said.

There were exceptions, particularly when matters of national security were at stake.

"But most documents - for example, those detailing retirement packages for officials of an elected government paid for out of taxpayers' money - have nothing to do with national security.

"The public has every right to know about their contents ... without journalists being dragged before a parliamentary inquisition and fined or sent to jail." It was a journalist's right and professional duty to protect sources of information, he said.

If passed, the motion would bring media workers upholding ethical standards into conflict with the law.

Lush pointed out that the press played a key role in Namibia's democracy and said "it would be tragic if it were undermined by other elements of the same democracy."

Namibia's young democracy could be starved of the oxygen it needed to flourish if journalists were prevented from interviewing MPs on proposed Bills: this would "inevitably deny the public enough time in which to have

their say".

Although such debate could be uncomfortable for politicians, costly errors could be avoided.

"For example, by publishing information about the recent Cabinet plan to award politicians and military leaders additional retirement packages, the media gave the public a chance to voice its opinion.

"The politicians were able to gauge this opinion, and were subsequently able to stop the process before it was too late."

Secret documents

David Ntshengwe, of the Media Institute of Southern Africa, said the motion seemed geared towards blocking the leaking of secret documents highlighting corruption and self-enrichment exercises by senior officials.

He urged the government to "respect the role of the media in a developing democracy" and to keep intact Namibia's good track record on press freedom.

Last year, a proposed law to make it an offence for anyone "intentionally or negligently" to publish or disclose "any information" before it had been tabled was scrapped after public protests.

Findley Harker, clerk of parliament, said the new proposal would enable a

committee to issue subpoenas upon the authorisation of the parliamentary speaker.

The motion says the Committee of Privileges "may ... subpoena any person to attend a hearing before it and to give evidence or to produce any document or thing in the possession or custody or under the control of that person."

It also compels any person subpoenaed to answer any question asked by the committee.

Harker sought to play down the effects of the motion, saying it would be used only as a last resort, and that it might still be rejected by parliament.

Fidelis Sheyapo of the ruling South West Africa People's Organisation has hit out at "leaking" civil servants.

He described female civil servants as being particularly "dangerous" as they fell in love with foreigners and gave away vital information.

"We cannot afford to have such people - as in the past during the liberation struggle - who betray you and even sell your country to foreigners," said Sheyapo during legislative discussions.

His remarks provoked an outcry from women and he later apologised. - *Gemini News.*

(Christhof Maletsky is assistant news editor of The Namibian newspaper in Windhoek.)

AFRICA

Nujoma flouts advisers with shifting position on perks

Recent upheavals in Namibia raise some doubts about the way in which the country is governed, writes **Christof Maletsky**

THE uproar in Namibia about planned golden handshakes for senior politicians and President Sam Nujoma's claim that he was not party to the cabinet's decision to approve them, has raised questions about the president's performance.

His about turn on the packages — which insiders allege he was closely involved with, after leaks to the media and the resultant protests, also raises the question of why he was not in consultation with Prime Minister Hage Geingob, the chief promoter of the packages.

Nujoma distanced himself from the packages for the elite — which were to be awarded in addition to normal pension benefits — at a time when Geingob was in the UK and the US where he had been de-

fending the need for such perks.

When the media contacted Geingob in the US for comment on Nujoma's move, it emerged Geingob was unaware of the president's decision. The talk in top political circles is that Nujoma undermined Geingob by acting without consultation. Some politicians claim Nujoma's decision to back out of a cabinet decision was unconstitutional because cabinet decisions are binding on every member.

Five years ago, Nujoma fired former agriculture minister Arton von Wietersheim when he dared to differ with a cabinet decision on the handling of a disciplinary case against a veterinary official.

Sensing a government in disarray after Nujoma backpedalled on the perks plan,

the opposition called for Nujoma to resign and for fresh elections. However, political analysts said Nujoma's response to the public protests was a populist move intended to muster support for his planned third term in office.

Nujoma's shifting position on perks also raised the question who was advising him. Geingob would be expected to be his principal adviser, while on legal questions, he should be advised by attorney-general Vekui Rukoro. It seems neither was consulted and for a time after Nujoma's announcement, both men's resignations were rumoured to be on the cards.

It is said Nujoma acted on advice from Trade Minister Hidipo Hamutenya, Geingob's chief rival as successor to Nujoma.

But Nujoma, always quick to patch up internal party strife, appears to have made peace with both men. Rukoro reportedly told aides that he was on his way out following Nujoma's announcement, but has since refused to elaborate.

Critics claim recent events indicate the leadership is unaccountable.

Yet, there is still no clarity whether the packages have been completely dropped or simply shelved. Editorials carried by the Namibian media suggested decisions on perks for public service should be carried out in the public eye, involving widespread consultation. Given the public reaction, it would be wise for the cabinet to make it clear that it has scrapped the perks completely to avoid discrediting itself again.

221) RD 13110 JAT

NAMIBIA 'There's a new sort of apartheid, maybe worse than we used to have'

Swapo's firm grasp of purse strings

ET(BE) 28/10/97 (221A)

Windhoek — Like most people in Namibia, Veova Munondjo had thought things would get better when the South African colony gained independence seven years ago.

But Munondjo still serves drinks at a disco-restaurant in Windhoek for the same salary: N\$1 000 a month (R1 010). Nothing had changed, including the way some blacks were treated, she said.

People from the majority Ovambo tribe, the support base of the ruling party, got the government jobs — the only good ones available — while minority groups were ignored, Munondjo, a Herero, said with a sigh.

"There's a new sort of apartheid, maybe worse than we used to have," she said. "If a black person treats you badly, it feels a lot worse than if a white person treats you badly."

Her complaint reveals an irony for the nation that was hailed as a model of democracy on a volatile continent when it celebrated liberation in March 1990. Now it is moving towards one-party rule, while its neighbours have mostly embraced multiparty politics.

President Sam Nujoma's governing South-West Africa People's Organisation (Swapo) holds unassailable control of the national assembly, giving it power to pass laws and rewrite the constitution at will.

"The opposition is becoming non-existent in influencing decisions," said Ben Amathila, the information minister. "On the other hand, that is the wishes of the people. We gauge it as a way that people perceive Swapo."

Critics accuse Swapo leaders of catering to Ovambos and enriching themselves. They say government officials get



DEMOCRACY WITH A VIEW A woman sells meat next to her shack in the Ombile section of Katatura township outside Windhoek in September. Some blacks, not members of the majority Ovambo tribe, feel little has changed for them since the former South African colony gained independence seven years ago

PHOTO: AP

high salaries for fancy cars and plush houses, while the poor get next to nothing.

"If you don't have a relative in the government, you don't get a top position. It has become a total Ovambo government," said Katuutire Kaura, the vice-president of the opposition Democratic Turnhalle Alliance.

On the streets, non-Ovambos express little hope of improvement.

"If you vote Swapo, they'll give you promises," said Theobald Siririka, 33, a Herero liquor store owner. "But most of what they say never happens."

In another irony, the white minority that most feared a Swapo government now complains the least. Whites make

up less than 10 percent of the population but control much of the wealth in a country that still resembles a colony of neighbouring South Africa.

South African-based banks and retailers abound. South African-made cars and trucks cruise South African-built roads. In Windhoek, most people speak Afrikaans.

Swapo's rebellion against South African rule ended with UN-supervised elections in 1989 that Nujoma's party easily won. In elections in 1994, the party won more than 72 percent of the vote to gain its stranglehold on power.

Joseph Diescho, a Namibian political scientist who is lecturing this year at the University of South Africa, said Swapo's status as the liberat-

ing party made it difficult for significant opposition to form.

Namibia enjoys wealth in limited resources, such as diamonds and fish, but lacks significant arable land. It exports most of what it produces and relies on imports of essential goods, including food. About three-quarters of those imports come from South Africa.

Amathila calls the economic dependence on South Africa a blessing and a curse. Colonial links give Namibia access to markets and goods from the regional powerhouse, but have left it dwarfed when it comes to attracting foreign investment.

"We are a small economy, and most investors come to see what we have but don't go ahead and put in the money," he said. — Sapa-AP

Namibian rate cuts 'depend on govt action'

DD 30/10/97 (221)

WINDHOEK — Government borrowing and inflation had to be brought down before further rate cuts could be expected in Namibia, SA life assurer Old Mutual said in its latest quarterly economic forecast published yesterday.

"Although private credit growth is easing, the fiscal situation mitigates against a further rate cut," the report said.

It said credit extended to the private sector slowed sharply due to the effect of sustained high real

interest rates. Year-on-year private credit growth fell to single digits in February this year for the first time since independence in 1990. It moved to 10% in June, while July and August showed private credit growth of 11% and 10,9% respectively.

"But credit to government, which shows a very volatile pattern at the best of times, surged by 153% compared to last year," the report stated.

"The demand for capital from

government is growing too fast and poses the danger of classical crowding out." It further warned that if government continued in this trend, it would have difficulty in realising its targets.

It said failure of the Namibian government to meet its target would "jeopardise its plan to reach a 3% deficit by the end of the decade". The government deficit reached 5,3% of GDP (excluding grants) in 1996/97, compared with a budgeted 4%. — Reuter.

Namibia preparing for El Nino

CT (MR) 31/10/97 (221)

FRAUKE JENSEN

Windhoek — Ahead of the awaited El Nino weather phenomenon, expected to bring drought to southern Africa, Namibia disclosed plans yesterday for a government committee to devise counter-measures for the worst-case scenario.

"As has been revealed by several experts, the El Nino phenomenon will probably have a very serious weather implication," said Ben Amathila, the information minister.

"It could result in one of the worst droughts the region has experienced in many years."

In light of this, the cabinet has approved the establishment of an inter-ministerial committee comprising eight government agencies to work on ways to minimise the effects of El Nino.

The weather pattern, which occurs with varying strength every two to seven years, could, if predictions by famine experts

hold true, severely affect up to 25 million people in southern Africa.

The region is highly dependent on agriculture, with over half of its total population of about 140 million deriving their livelihood from agriculture.

The committee has been tasked with assessing all aspects of the possible emergency and its effects on the national economy, the budget, livestock, water shortages and the environment.

Amathila said: "The inter-ministerial committee will be expected to prepare practical recommendations on remedial and preventative measures to be taken as part of Namibia's disaster preparedness to mitigate the effects of a possible drought emergency."

He said the committee hoped

to have an action plan in place before January 1998.

Namibia is seen as a borderline case regarding countries in the region that are set to experience significantly lower than normal rainfall this season.

But the country, which is 824 292km² in area, is also home to two deserts, the Namib and the Kalahari, and is already finding it hard to provide for its 1.5 million people, of which 600 000 live in the northern regions where subsistence farming is the economic mainstay.

Over the past two decades recurring droughts, a population growth of about 3 percent and widely increasing desertification have reduced the prospects of successful large-scale farming activity in a naturally arid country. — Reuter

The weather pattern could severely affect 25 million people in southern Africa

Swapo to challenge commission's ruling on Rundu election

Christof Malatsky

WINDHOEK — The ruling Swapo party intends to challenge the Namibian electoral commission's decision to bar it from contesting the coming local election in Rundu, one of its strongholds.

The party has already approached Johannesburg-based lawyers for an opinion after commission chairman Judge President Johan Strydom turned down a written request from the party asking to be allowed late entry to the election.

Swapo failed to register candidates for the Rundu election before the registration deadline on October 24. As a result, the main opposition party DTA — as the only party to register in time — automatically won all

seven seats on the Rundu town council.

Swapo currently has five seats in Rundu, while the DTA has only two, but failure to submit the list in time because of a communications breakdown between Windhoek and Rundu has cost them the seats.

However, legal sources said Swapo did not appear to have grounds on which to appeal against the electoral commission's decision, since there is no provision in the Electoral Act for condoning parties failing to supply their list of candidates in time.

The only provision is that the registration process can continue after the 14-day deadline, but only if the names are submitted before the deadline. Moreover, the decision by the ruling party to contemplate challenging the electoral commission's decision comes as

a surprise as the party had earlier accepted the commission's ruling.

Swapo did an about turn on Friday when party secretary-general Hifkopunye Pohamba announced that the party leadership would do everything in its power to ensure that the Rundu constituency had the chance to vote on December 2.

However, prior to this announcement, Swapo was advised informally that it had no grounds for an appeal against the decision.

Questions are being raised as to why Swapo decided to seek advice from lawyers outside the country concerning an internal matter which could be handled by local lawyers.

At a press briefing on Friday, Pohamba called on

Rundu residents to remain calm and to be patient. "I assure you that the leadership will do all in its power within the law and the constitution to secure the people of Rundu the opportunity to exercise their democratic right to vote for the party of their choice," Pohamba said.

Swapo supporters in the Rundu constituency have expressed dismay and anger at the Swapo leadership, who they blame for the party's failure to submit the list of Rundu candidates in time.

More than 2,000 Swapo supporters demonstrated in the town on Saturday claiming: "Rundu is a Swapo town and will be ruled by Swapo, who are in the majority here."

They said they would not allow the minority who

supported DTA to rule the town.

The demonstrators said if no elections were held in Rundu, there would be no town council for the next five years.

Swapo nearly lost out in Leonardville too, where the party also missed the registration deadline. However, the DTA failed to turn up to register at all, so the whole registration process had to be repeated on Friday morning.

Election director Gerhard Tokomeyer confirmed that Swapo and the DTA were the only parties to register in the Leonardville town on Friday.

Both parties submitted their candidates' lists within the first hour of registration on Friday morning, he said.

PD 4/11/97

(2/1)

Namibia in bid to counter El Niño

Christof Maletsky

WINDHOEK — Namibia has started taking its first steps to cushion the expected impact of the El Niño weather phenomenon.

The cabinet has approved the establishment of an interministerial committee to assess the possible implications which El Niño might hold for the economy, the national budget and livestock.

Information and Broadcasting Minister Ben Amathila said experts had made predictions that El Niño would carry very serious weather implications.

The phenomenon originates from the Pacific Ocean and is hugely influential on weather across the globe, causing droughts and floods. It generally causes a

(221) BD 5/11/97
reversal of normal weather conditions — so in places where it is usually dry, heavy rainfall is experienced, while the opposite happens in regions which are normally wet.

Successive El Niños have had a devastating effect during the past 15 years.

"It could result in one of the worst droughts the region has experienced in many years. It is also possible that the drought could last for two or more years," Amathila said.

It was against this background that cabinet has approved the establishment of an interministerial committee consisting of the office of the prime minister and the ministries of finance, defence, environment and tourism, agriculture,

water and rural development and also of lands, resettlement and rehabilitation.

The national planning commission is also in the interministerial committee, which will be co-ordinated by the national emergency management committee.

Amathila said the interministerial committee would be expected to prepare recommendations on remedial and preventative measures to be taken as part of Namibia's disaster preparedness, to mitigate the effects of a possible drought emergency.

Poor rainfall has been predicted for the southern African region this summer, with the dry weather set to cause havoc with food production during the coming growing season.

AFRICA

Namibia plans car perks for ministers

BD 10/11/97

(221)

Christof Maletsky

WINDHOEK. — More than a month after President Sam Nujoma announced he would make sure no self-enrichment took place in his cabinet, Prime Minister Hage Geingob announced the government was considering a car scheme for ministers.

Geingob announced that the cabinet

wanted to buy four-wheel drive vehicles for each minister.

Answering questions from the opposition in Parliament, Geingob said the proposed car scheme would enable ministers to own cars which they could use as they pleased. He did not say when such plans would be introduced or what the procedure may be.

Nujoma, who chairs the cabinet, has claimed innocence in a move by his cabinet to award massive retirement packages and allowances to top political leaders and military officials. He said he was not part of the plan, and was not present when the packages were tabled before cabinet.

Media reports revealed that since July 1 ministers and deputy ministers had received more than R1,7m in allowances to pay for domestic workers, despite assurances by government the payments had not been agreed to.

The new scheme was implemented together with the "recalculated" housing, travel and subsistence allowances for top political office bearers, which were backdated to April 1.

In terms of the new allowances, ministers receive R10 000 a month and deputies R8 500 a month for housing, an increase of 37% and 113% on previous payments respectively.

In August, plans to award tax-free golden handshakes and other allowances to Nujoma, cabinet members, parliamentarians and senior members of the armed forces when they retire were also revealed.

□ NAMIBIA

Officials deny claims of poaching increase

The rate of illegal hunting of elephants in Namibia and neighbouring countries had not increased since the signing of a Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species (Cites) agreement in July, officials from the ministry of environment and tourism said this week.

Elephant poaching in Namibia, Botswana, South Africa and Zimbabwe had remained "about the same" since the agreement, contrary to claims that it had actually increased, said Malan Lind-eque, the deputy director of special services in the ministry.

The ministry's rebuttal comes on the heels of claims made last week by the International Fund for Animal Welfare that "the proposed resumption of ivory trading has resulted in an increase in poaching". — Sapa, Windhoek

CT(BR)13/11/97

(21) (56)

Sand pirates on Caprivi rivers ordered out by government

(221) ARG 15/11/97

Windhoek - The illegal excavation of river sand in the Caprivi - largely by commercial building companies - has prompted the Namibian Environment and Tourism Ministry to order those involved to stop.

The sand is being taken from the banks of the Zambezi and other rivers in the region, and mostly used for building and construction purposes.

"The wider community of the region has expressed concern over the environmentally unfriendly activities involving the unauthorised removal of sand from the Zambezi River by business entrepreneurs for building purposes," the ministry said in a letter to the Caprivi regional governor John Mabuku.

The letter, dated October 6, said the ministry was concerned over the detrimental effect the removal of sand was having on the river's natural aquatic zones and biotic life.

The ministry also noted that any underwater engineering exercises were a major polluter of fresh water.

"To avoid serious environmental hazards, the Ministry of Environment and Tourism requests all people engaged in the collection of sand from the Zambezi River, and also from other associate rivers of the Caprivi region, to immediately refrain from this illegal activity," the letter said. - Sapa

Namibians face higher taxes as govt debt grows

Christof Maletsky

(221)
AD 18/11/97
WINDHOEK — Higher taxes are looming for Namibians as early as March next year as a result of the government's mounting debt, local economists warned.

Economist Rainer Ritter expressed concern about the rising debt of the country and warned that if the Namibian government did not put a brake on expenditure, indirect taxes like sales duty would be increased. "Value-added taxes might also be introduced ... probably by the next budget," said Ritter, senior manager of corporate affairs at Olthaver and List.

He said several indicators showed the Namibian economy was facing a tough road. Although diamond mining had carried the country through this year, companies like Tsumeb Corporation had not had a good year and the taxes they would pay next year could not be guaranteed.

The only way to make sure the government had enough to spend would be through increased taxation or to borrow more money, Ritter said.

Bank Windhoek's Emile van Zyl agreed. "If it was not for the good performance by the diamonds, we would be in trouble."

Based on Finance Minister Nangolo Mbumba's additional budget, tabled recently, Namibia's budget deficit is set to exceed the deficit target of 3,9% of gross domestic product (GDP) set in the main budget earlier this year.

Mbumba sought parliament's approval for additional expenditure of R333m to see the government through to March next year, bringing the revised budget to R6,087bn from R5,754bn, as approved by parliament earlier this year.

In his additional budget, Mbumba asked for an additional R124m just to pay the interest on government loans.

Ritter welcomed Mbumba's pledge to improve the monitoring of government spending, saying that he was also well aware of the difficulties faced by the government in putting the brakes on expenditure because of its social and political commitments.

However, Dirk Hansohm, Namibian Economic Policy Research Unit senior researcher, felt there was little reason to praise Mbumba for not raising taxes in the additional budget. "There are no compliments because the taxes already constitute about 40% of GDP."

His organisation also reminded Mbumba that the comparative figure for taxation as a percentage of GDP for all developing countries was 14%, and 24% for industrial countries.

"This high tax rate effectively strangles the development of the private sector, which is the only possible engine for sustainable growth," the research unit said.

Technicalities force delay of Namibian local polls

BD 20/11/97 (221)

Chistof Maletsky

WINDHOEK — Namibian President Sam Nujoma yesterday postponed the country's local authority elections until the middle of February.

The elections were supposed to take place on December 2, but due to technical defects Nujoma was forced to postpone it or face a possible court action from whoever might not be happy with the outcome.

Nujoma said two technical errors had been spotted. The first was that the original proclamation gave the parties 14 days to nominate candidates instead of the 15 required by law. This was why the case between the ruling Swapo party and the electoral commission was settled out of court.

The latest defect which was pointed out by the official opposition, the Democratic Turnhalle Alliance (DTA), was the parties' failure to submit residential addresses of each candidate as required by the Electoral Act.

Nujoma said he had been advised by attorney-general Vekuii Rukoro that the errors threatened the integrity of the election process and the right of citizens to vote.

"The Namibian people fought a

long and bitter struggle to enjoy this precious right. In keeping with the ideals of the nation, it is our policy that the Namibian election process must be beyond reproach," Nujoma said in a recorded radio and television broadcast.

For this reason, he said, he issued a proclamation which repealed the previous one setting December 2 as the date.

He said a new proclamation will be issued towards the end of December 1997 to start the nomination and election process anew, while the actual nominations will take place during mid-January and the elections in mid-February.

The postponement of the election will require amendments to the Local Authorities Act, since the term of office of the incumbent local authority councillors is due to expire in December.

Nujoma said necessary amendments would be tabled in Parliament "within the next few days".

Nujoma also announced that he had decided to extend the term of office of the director of elections by three months to March 31 and Prime Minister Hage Geingob would also be tabling a motion in parliament for the extension of the term of office for the electoral commission to March 31.

The director of elections, Prof Gerhard Totemeyer, who accepted responsibility for the matter, welcomed the postponement, saying that the pre-election political atmosphere was not right because it was heavily poisoned by accusations, counter-accusations and threats.

He confirmed that the electoral commission received a letter from the DTA indicating that, even after the elections, the court could be approached to set the elections aside.

"The attitude reflected in the letter is, according to my opinion, not conducive to an election that can be conducted in a free atmosphere," he said.

Totemeyer also said parties that originally missed the boat on the nomination day would now have an opportunity to register, and voters who only now realised they had not registered would be able to do so.

He said voter registration would start and continue until a new date had been announced.

He said the postponement would not have any real financial implications, while poll papers remained in England where they were printed and were being kept under tight security.

Ruling breaks new ground

Christof Maletsky

BD 26/11/97 (221)

WINDHOEK — An SA citizen living in Namibia since 1982 has secured a groundbreaking High Court judgment which orders government to grant him citizenship without having to apply for a permanent residence permit.

"This would mean the government could be facing more such challenges since there are hundreds of SA citizens in the country who have been trying to get Namibian citizenship for so long," lawyer Clinton Light from the Legal Assistance Centre said yesterday.

Stephen Charles Swart went to school in Namibia and has been employed there since 1987. In July 1995 he was notified by the home affairs ministry that he was an illegal immigrant and told to leave the country.

The ministry refused to grant Swart permanent residence by naturalisation — prompting him to challenge the matter in court.

The government contended that Swart's right to remain in Namibia as an SA citizen had ended 12 months after independence. It argued that after that time SA citizens who had lived in the country for more than five years — but did not have Namibian citizenship by birth, descent or marriage — should have left the country if they had failed to obtain permission to stay like any other "alien".

Acting Judge Gerhard Maritz highlighted the fact that Swart could have claimed citizenship by registration within the first 12 months after independence, but did not use the right. However, Swart still had the right to become a Namibian citizen.

He said Swart had entered Namibia lawfully, and all laws which had been in force in the country immediately before independence continued to be of force until they were repealed or amended by an act of parliament, or declared unconstitutional.

Farmers 'blocking' Namibia's land

PD 10/12/97

Christof Maletsky

WINDHOEK — The Namibian government is to step up its land redistribution programme, which it says has been stymied by white farmers who are reluctant to sell their land to the state.

President Sam Nujoma said at a recent function that land reform in Namibia had been "painfully slow" and laid the blame on white land barons, whom he said were overpricing their land. He warned that the need to gain access to land had motivated thousands of Namibians to join the national liberation struggle, yet most of them remained landless.

A new national land policy providing for more sweeping reform measures has taken years to reach parliament. The

Communal Land Bill, which is to be tabled in parliament in February, will among other things allow for the expropriation of land from absentee landlords, particularly those living outside the country. Many of these landlords are South African and German owners who are said to use their farms only for recreation.

Nujoma said that since independence more than seven years ago, government had been devising systematic programmes of land redistribution and acquisition. This included the passage of the Agricultural Land Reform Act in 1995, which endorsed the willing buyer-willing-seller system.

Government is reluctant to disclose how many farms have been redistributed but says 3 000 families have been re-

settled. Since 1995, government has budgeted R20m a year for land redistribution.

Nujoma said the willing buyer-willing-seller approach had been initiated to avoid chaos during redistribution, yet reform had been slow. He called on white land owners to be "bold and sincere" in the way they offered land for sale. "It will not contribute to the success of equitable land redistribution if land owners are prepared only to offer land that is less economical, or when prices for the farms or the improvements made to the land are inflated beyond their real cost."

Such actions, which he described as deliberate, were hindering government's efforts to acquire land, and hampered national reconciliation. Land reform needed to be seen as ensuring social stability.

Commercial farmers have denied Nujoma's claims.

Lands, Resettlement and Rehabilitation Minister Pendukeni Ithana said government would go with plans to expropriate land with compensation for owners who were not using it properly, or who were judged to own too much land.

"The ministry will identify the land and approach the owner after some assessment has been done," Ithana said. Those likely to lose property included owners whose agricultural land exceeded two "economic units". An economic unit would be determined by factors that included rainfall and capacity of the land.

Not every farm used for resettlement had been well utilised and a lease system would be introduced "so people will be

required to give something in return".

Commercial farmers have denied claims that they are reluctant to offer farms to government. The executive manager of the Namibia Agricultural Union, Gert Grobler, claimed the government did not have money to buy farms offered by their members, despite budgeting R20m a year since 1995. "The land commission (which is supposed to buy the farms) has not got money. To whom must we offer the excessive land? Who will buy it?" Grobler asked. He also denied that farmers were offering their farms at excessive prices.

Hadino Hishongwa, the former deputy lands minister, has proposed that the annual budget for farm purchasing be increased from R20m to R100m until all available land had been bought.

redistribution,

(221)

Plan for seal plant at Namibian resort

Christof Maletsky

WINDHOEK — Plans are under way for a controversial seal processing plant, which will include sidelines ranging from bone-meal to cosmetics production, at the Henties Bay tourist resort on the Namibian coast.

Henties Bay mayor Alf Liebenberg said this week that the companies behind the proposed plant — Namibia Export Services, negotiating on behalf of an unnamed foreign interest, and seal concessionaire Sea Lion Products — were negotiating the terms of their joint venture. Their final proposal is expected to be tabled before the town council early next year.

Liebenberg said a foreigner had applied to set up the plant, but was advised by the municipality to enter a joint venture with Sea Lion Products.

BD 17/12/97 (221)
According to their initial proposal, the companies want to turn Henties Bay into a base for a seal products industry with an abattoir; a bone-meal plant; a fat processing plant with laboratories for manufacturing oils, capsules, creams and cosmetics; a tannery; shoe and leatherware factories; a canning factory; a research laboratory; a museum and a retail outlet.

The developers also want the seal culling quota increased to meet the demands of a redeveloped industry, with a minimum number of seals to be killed set for at least three years.

These "conditions" attached to the proposal have raised concern among Henties Bay residents, who question what will happen if there is another seal "die-off" because of adverse environmental conditions. Two years ago thousands of seals died unexpectedly.

Although the proposal has not yet been fully considered by the council, the developers say they are ready to set up the project pending official support. The council has merely noted the contents of the proposal, saying a formal application has not been submitted.

The prospective developers also claim that the town's tourism industry would benefit from the project. "At present, tourists do not spend any meaningful time in Henties Bay but rush through to the north or south. In creating this rare, easily accessible and interesting industry, visitors will spend time and money in Henties Bay."

The seal industry has been criticised by animal welfare organisations which claim Namibia's annual seal harvest is cruel and unnecessary. The country slaughters between 40 000 and 55 000 seals a year.

NAMIBIA - GENERAL

1998

Nujoma unveils land plan

FOREIGN SERVICE (221)

ARG 2/2/98

Windhoek - The Namibian government, under pressure to speed up the land redistribution exercise, has unveiled a plan aimed at acquiring all the land it needs for resettlement by the year 2000.

President Sam Nujoma has announced that his government will devise legal and financial mechanisms to ensure that almost all, if not all, the land needed for redistribution to the country's landless masses is acquired in the next three years.

Mr Nujoma's plan - which comes in the wake of renewed calls to speed up the land redistribution from within the ruling party Swapo and the National Union of Namibian Workers (NUNW) - was revealed when he addressed the first Cabinet session for 1998.

Mr Nujoma said there the government needed to determine the exact land requirements for the people of Namibia to work towards acquiring 20% of the land needed by the end of the current year and about "80% if not 100% by the year 2000".

"Acquisition of land and resettlement must also be reinforced by ensuring that the people settled on these lands are given skills and other support

to become productive," the president told cabinet.

Mr Nujoma said commitment should also be given to resolving the problems being faced by the jobless ex-combatants by the end of 1998.

"From now until March 2000, we need to concentrate on resolving, not just addressing, very important national problems.

"We therefore need to initiate concrete actions that will result in solving a number of problems," Mr Nujoma said.

A number of Swapo parliamentarians and leaders of the NUNW have called for the amendment of the revision of the constitution to allow for expropriation of land from mostly white landlords.

Namibia's commercial farmers umbrella body has warned government to implement the land redistribution exercise with caution.

The Namibia Agricultural Union (NAU) has particularly expressed concern that resettling thousands of people on commercial land would result in the destruction of the fragile ecology and economy thereby exacerbating poverty.

The NAU says although it supports the National Land Use Policy, these objectives would not be achieved by increasing communal farming areas.

Inquest a 'comedy of errors'

(221)

Subpoenaed South Africans fail to appear at second Lubowski inquest

By ESTELLE PEINAAR
Windhoek

The second inquest into the murder of Swapo activist Anton Lubowski has turned into a comedy of errors. None of the South Africans who were subpoenaed to appear at the inquest, showed up.

The documents which a Windhoek newspaper editor claimed contained irrefutable proof of the identity of Lubowski's murderers, mysteriously disappeared. And while the murderer or murderers remain at large, the editor, Hannes Smith, now faces four months in prison starting to-

day, unless he produces the documents.

Then Smith, editor and sole reporter of the Windhoek Observer, though facing jail for his apparent reluctance to give information to the court, startled reporters after the hearings by coming clean with the names of suspects mentioned in the documents. Along with the names of former operatives of the now disbanded Civil Co-operation Bureau or CCB, Smith also divulged the name of an employee of the Johannesburg City Council, Martin Hennig

In a telephone interview, Hennig denied any knowledge of the assassination and said he had never met any of the CCB men

named by Smith - Chappie Maree, Ferdi Barnard, Slang van Zyl, Calla Botha, Staal Burger and Donald Acheson who figured prominently as the chief suspect in the first inquest.

Last night Hennig stormed into the premises of the SABC to demand that they should not broadcast an interview done earlier with him. They refused.

Hennig also threatened legal action against the Afrikaans newspaper Beeld if it published an interview with him, according to sources. The paper also rejected his demands.

Smith had testified at the inquest on Monday that he had explosive documents naming the assassins of Lubowski

which he had apparently bought for R4 800 from an unknown informer in Johannesburg in February 1996.

He refused to hand the documents to the court, claiming he was protecting certain individuals named in them. On Tuesday he relented and offered to present the documents to the court by 14:15 yesterday.

But yesterday he claimed to have lost the documents. Judge Hannah rejected this claim and found Smith in contempt of court for refusing to produce the documents, and sentenced him to four months jail without the option of a fine.

Hannah postponed the sentence until 9am today.

Star 13/2/98

Output drops in Namibia

(221)
Christof Malefsky

BD 24/2/98
WINDHOEK — A 60% drop in agricultural output in the third quarter last year was an important factor underpinning the 3% drop in Namibia's gross domestic product over the same period.

The Bank of Namibia, in its quarterly bulletin for December, said the agricultural decline, which started in the fourth quarter of 1996, was due to a fall in the volume of cattle and small stocks marketed, as a result of a restocking exercises.

The forecast production of wheat was revised down from 6 300 tons to 4 900 tons. The revision was necessitated by a drop in expected yields at the two main wheat projects in Hardap and Musese after excessive heat and the unintentional use of herbicides in wheat fields.

The manufacturing and construction sectors also performed poorly.

However, mining output grew 12,8%, against 4,9% during the same period in 1996. The increase was mainly due to a good performance in the output of diamonds and uranium, which increased 10,2% and 25,3% respectively.

Increases in output for most base minerals such as copper, zinc and gold were also recorded.

Although the strict policies of the fisheries and marine resources ministry were relaxed in the quarter and quotas for several major fish species were increased due to the recovery in the stock of most fish species, this had little impact on growth in the fishing sector, with output rising only 7,4%.

ARGUS, TUESDAY, MARCH 17, 1998

Drought disaster looms for Namibia

(221) ARG 17/3/98

Windhoek - About 70% of Namibia's crops have been destroyed by severe drought, worsened by the El Nino phenomenon, according to a report today.

The chairman of the Agricultural Producers' Association, Frans Oberprieler, told the Namibian newspaper that unless good rains fell within the next two weeks farmers stood to lose all of their harvest this year.

"The situation is very serious, but we are hopeful," he said.

Wessels Horn, an officer at the Agronomic Board, the body that oversees the staple food needs of Namibia, said the country may be forced to import 140 000 tons of white maize to meet food requirements.

He likened the drought to that in 1992, which forced the government to seek drought relief aid from foreign countries.

Last season, when Namibia had above-average rains, farmers produced 35 000 tons of white maize, which was 105 000 tons less than consumption.

Mr Horn said with the poor outlook, the entire maize needs of the country may have to be imported.

"This is a disastrous year," he said.

"Farmers are on the brink of going out of business." - Reuters

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Namibian immigration services up

WINDHOEK — The Namibian home affairs ministry has announced big increases for national documents and immigration services.

Permanent residence will now cost N\$7 130, more than double the previous N\$2 500. A Namibian passport will cost N\$80 and the reissuing of an ordinary identity document N\$5. About N\$460 will be charged for a work permit application.

(221)

Namibia plans to introduce affirmative action bill

(221) 80 14/4/98

WINDHOEK — Namibian President Sam Nujoma says his government wants legislation to correct race and gender imbalances in the state and private sectors — a hangover from SA's rule before independence in 1990.

"It is important that we continue to reduce social inequity, therefore we must address the issue of affirmative action, not only within the government but also in the private sector," Nujoma told parliament in a state of the nation address last week.

"My government intends to introduce a bill on affirmative action and it is my hope that parliament will consider and deliberate on it in a constructive spirit," he said.

Whites make up 5% of Namibia's population but hold much economic power, a relic from the days when SA ruled the former German colony.

Draft legislation would force employers to implement plans to address imbalances and produce annual public reports on their progress in this area.

This has sparked a lively debate on the issue, with many employers concerned about the fines which could be imposed on those who failed to make the grade. The legislation envisages a penalty of \$794 for a first offence and \$24 000 for any subsequent contravention of its provisions.

Analysts say Namibia's high unemploy-

ment and underemployment rate, at 60%, threatens its stability.

The laws would have to address the ever-widening disparities in income between the rich and poor by providing equal employment opportunities, they say.

Namibia's ruling South West African People's Organisation (Swapo) fought a 23-year guerrilla war against SA rule before winning elections and taking power at independence in March 1990. However, a legacy of problems has remained.

Nujoma said education was crucial to social and economic advancement of the country. "This is the one area where social deficit has been most acute," he said. —Reuter.

Namibian union, govt oppose decision to liquidate Tsumeb

DD 21/4/98

Christof Maletsky

WINDHOEK — Gold Fields Namibia's decision to sequester Tsumeb Corporation has unleashed a storm of protest from the government and the Namibian Mineworkers' Union.

The corporation has said nearly 2 000 workers must stay at home until the company's liquidator decides their future. The corporation has been hurt by a slump in copper prices and a lengthy strike in 1996. Losses for last year were N\$55,03m.

Both the union and Mines and Energy Minister Andimba Toivo ya Toivo claim the company failed to inform them of the pending closure.

Ya Toivo said the company's workforce represented 24,5% of the total labour force of the Namibian mining industry.

"I must express my disappointment at the failure of Gold Fields Namibia's management to promptly inform my ministry

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about the abrupt closure of the mines," Ya Toivo said. "I learned of this development only on Thursday night, although I had met the top management on several occasions and there was no hint of what was to come."

He alleged this was "in violation of the Minerals Act, which requires six months' prior notification for permanent cessation of mining operations".

The union said it was "unbelievable" that the company, which it accused of exploiting Namibia's human and mineral resources for years, could seek liquidation without timeously informing other stakeholders.

However, union general secretary Peter Naholo also said the move to close three mines — Kombat, Khusib Springs and Otjihase — gave the government the chance to nationalise them and establish viable operations. He called on creditors to join the union in opposing Tsumeb's liquidation.

Mines and Energy Permanent Secretary Siseho Simasiku said even though the falling price of copper had compounded Tsumeb's financial difficulties, the company should have approached government to discuss its problems.

Ya Toivo said the company's mineral rights would revert back to the state. The three mines possessed "sufficient proven ore reserves that would enable other investors to continue mining operations and further development", and government would ensure new owners absorbed the present workforce.

Gold Fields Namibia MD Hugh Robinson said the fate of employees would be in the hands of the person appointed as liquidator of the company. Tsumeb did not want to see operations stopped permanently. It wanted a new owner to take over the company because it had run out of the money needed to develop and run the mines.

Court ruling on leopards angers wildlife bodies

(221)
Christof Maletsky

DD 29/4/98
WINDHOEK — Wildlife organisations in Namibia have criticised a lower court's decision to fine two South Africans R500 each for illegal possession and transportation of three leopards.

Leopards are an endangered species.

The Namibia Nature Foundation's deputy director, Judy Storm, said the "ridiculously small" fines would never deter people who were prepared to pay R3 000 for a leopard. "The current law is outdated and more related to SA than Namibia," Storm said. She said her organisation was helping to draft new legislation which would introduce stiff sentences for such actions.

Other organisations such as the Africat Foundation and the Wildlife Society of Namibia also criticised the fines, saying endangered animals in Namibia needed proper protection.

The Windhoek Magistrate's Court found SA citizens Willem Adriaan Nel, 48 and Joubre Knoese, 24, guilty of contravening an ordinance by transporting game and being unable to satisfactorily explain their possession of the three leopards found on their bakkie outside a Windhoek bar on Saturday morning.

They were each fined R250 or three months' imprisonment on each of the two charges. Magistrate Peter Unengu said the fine was not severe because the ordinance was 23 years old.

The two said they bought the leopards from Namibian game rancher Jan Oelofse of M. Etjo Safari Lodge, about 200km north of Windhoek, but they had no valid permits. Oelofse caught the leopards after they had been hunting his antelope.

When the Namibian police's protected resources unit found the two leopards they were in a poor condition and had cuts on their feet from standing in wire cages.

They have since been confiscated by the state and are being cared for by the Africat Foundation.

Namibian police (221) criticise car fleet deal

WINDHOEK — Disgruntled Namibian police have criticised as unsuitable a multimillion dollar fleet of vehicles bought by the government from US group General Motors, according to press reports at the weekend.

Senior police officers told The Namibian newspaper that tests on the first batch of 800 vehicles proved they were expensive to run, heavy on fuel and not suited to Namibia's dust and gravel roads.

They have referred these complaints to "higher authorities" in Namibia's government.

The \$27m deal, settled by President Sam Nujoma in 1996 during a visit to Detroit-based General Motors, has been widely criticised.

Critics say the order never went through a tender process that would have checked the costs of running the vehicles and their suitability to conditions in this southern desert state.

Earlier this month Nujoma responded angrily when asked how his government could afford the 800 vehicles as Namibia faced tight budgetary constraints.

At a media briefing during the Southern African Economic Forum, the president retorted that the country needed and wanted the vehicles which were cheaper than those imported from SA.

An initial 126 vehicles, including buses and four-wheel-drive pick ups, have already been handed to the government.

Before delivery, the vehicles are converted to right-hand drive by US company Barden International, which has recently set up a plant in the Namibian capital, Windhoek. — Sapa-AFP.

Woman haunted by torture in Swapo death camp

MTG 5-11/6/98

Melissa Jones
and Michael Gillard

Recurring nightmares of torture have haunted Emma Kambangula for the past nine years. "In one, I am naked and being beaten with bundles of sticks by three men, while two others are restraining my daughter, Freda, who is crying, screaming and trying to run to me," explains the 38-year-old Namibian human rights activist.

Both mother and daughter are presently in London, receiving counselling for torture victims.

Kambangula's nightmares began soon after her release, in May 1989, from a secret concentration camp in Angola. While it marked the end of four years' imprisonment in a 3,5m-deep dungeon covered with corrugated iron and grass, it was also the start of a lonely struggle to confront injustice and betrayal.

Like hundreds of women and men held in these underground death camps — some for as long as 10 years — Kambangula was repeatedly tortured until she falsely confessed on video to being an apartheid spy.

The torturers were her own comrades in arms, young black soldiers from Swapo (the South African People's Organisation) who fought for 30 years against South Africa's brutal control of its neighbour, Namibia, until independence in 1990.

Kambangula was just 18 and still in her school uniform the day she ran away to join Swapo's rebel army on the Angolan border in 1979. Full of pride and respect for the liberation movement, she never dreamed her decision would end in anything but dignity for her oppressed people.

After training at communist party schools in Moscow, Lusaka and Budapest, her promising rise through the youth ranks ended in 1985 when she was suddenly recalled by Swapo to Angola.

"The atmosphere was very different," she remembers. "There were rumours that women had been sent [by South African intelligence] with razor blades in their vaginas to kill Swapo leaders."

Within months, she was arrested and sent to Minya women's camp in Luban-

(221)
go. Kambangula's former comrades showed no mercy. For two months, they beat her naked body red, black and blue, demanding that she confess. She was blindfolded, hung upside down and beaten until she fell to the floor. This brutality left her paralysed in the camp hospital for seven months.

Swapo used torture and terror to get prisoners to implicate each other as apartheid agents. When told her aunt would be arrested, Kambangula finally gave in. It is widely believed Swapo leaders now in government used the spy scare to cover up an internal purge of reformist elements who were criticising their military decisions, speaking out against corruption and arguing for more internal democracy.

Kambangula and 200 other "detainees" returned to Namibia in July 1989 as part of a United Nations sponsored peace plan. No one came to meet her. "When I saw the women being met by their relatives, I wished I had died in the dungeons. I stayed on the bus and cried. I realised the two people I loved, my mother and sister, were dead."

Like many other "spies", Kambangula was ostracised by her remaining pro-Swapo family and other newly liberated black Namibians who, with the international community, put Swapo on a pedestal. Around 3 000 detainees are missing and Swapo still has not satisfactorily accounted for them.

In 1996, she channelled her rage into fulfilling a promise to those left behind in the camps. "We promised each other that those we left behind and those who died there would not be forgotten. I promised to tell the world about Swapo and our detention," Kambangula recalls.

That year, she set up the Centre for the Study of Violence and Reconciliation — the first of its kind in Namibia. It treats victims of atrocities committed by both sides in the liberation struggle, including her torturers, who she sees frequently on the streets or in government offices.

"If I am getting nightmares, so must they. That's why I suggested they, too, should receive counselling, so they can tell the truth. The detainee question is a timebomb and it will have to explode sometime."

to CT 5/6/98
**Namibians will need
food aid, unit warns** (221)

WINDHOEK: Over 231 000 people in Namibia will need food aid due to the poor crop yield this year, a preliminary report released by the country's Emergency Management Unit (EMU) has indicated.

The distribution of food is only expected to begin at the end of this month.

The EMU is finalising the breakdown of food requirements countrywide.

The north-eastern regions of Caprivi and Kavango are most severely hit as a result of this year's crop production failure.

Production of cereals is expected to be far below self-sufficiency levels during the 1997/98 season.

The country's total national coarse grain production for 1997/98 has been projected at a mere 53 200 tons, way below the record 166 400 tons last year.

In the Caprivi region the area planted this season is 14 600 hectares, which is only 58% of last season's 25 200 hectares. In the Kavango region, only about half of last year's area has been planted.

The cabinet recently approved a National Drought Policy and Strategy which seeks to establish an independent and permanent National Drought Fund to efficiently finance drought relief programmes. — Independent Foreign Service

Nujoma lashes out at foreigners

Christof Maletsky

WINDHOEK — President Sam Nujoma has threatened to "deport", "deal with" or "get rid of with immediate effect" any foreign nationals who "disturb the peace".

In an attack on organisations supporting the Himba people, who are opposed to the construction of the controversial Epupa hydropower scheme at the Kunene River, Nujoma launched a broadside at the Legal Assistance Centre and had harsh words for "Europeans who do not follow our lead". He was addressing a gathering of traditional and community leaders from the Mukwe area in west Caprivi.

He accused unnamed whites of thinking they could divide Namibia on an ethnic basis. "Stop that, or we will deport you from this country," he said, adding that Namibians had died to get rid of the "divide and rule system".

He hit out at the Legal Assistance Centre, which has been acting on behalf of members of the Himba community opposed to the building of the Epupa dam.

"I was shown an article in a British magazine which quoted the so-called LAC (the centre) saying the Himbas are being marginalised by the ruling party because they were on the side of SA during the struggle," he said. "Epupa will be good for all, black and white. If you don't like that, pack and go."

In a speech laced with hostile references to people who did not fall in line with government thinking, especially "Europeans", Nujoma said his government accepted "genuine friends... but if you come with the aim of white superiority, we will get rid of you".

"We are warning you — do not disturb the peace in Namibia. I am warning you for the last time," Nujoma told the gathering. "White

friends who want to create tribal divisions, we will deal with you."

He said whites who followed the government's lead were welcome, but those who wanted to create war between tribes were not.

When a German-speaking Namibian journalist asked him who specifically he was referring to, and to what particular incidents, Nujoma responded: "You are German. Where do you come from? You are the people who caused the problems. You caused the war in Angola." When the journalist managed to say that he was a Namibian, the Swapo leader reportedly retorted: "Then act like one."

Nujoma's threats come hardly a month after his government deported an Angolan refugee and human rights activist, Manuel Neto, on the grounds that he was an alleged security threat.

Ten days ago Namibian immigration officials also held a nine-

year-old Angolan boy in prison cells overnight after swooping on "illegal aliens" in Windhoek.

The young child was released only after friends interceded on his behalf.

He and his two brothers, who were at school in Namibia, were last week given three days to leave the country "voluntarily". A home affairs official said the three brothers' applications for study permits had been done "unprocedurally".

Nujoma said last year his government would not be deterred by the "misguided activities" of foreigners who wanted to impede economic development and upliftment of standards of living of Namibians.

He said it had fought for social change, human rights and democracy, and it now refused to succumb to the "sinister manipulations and misinformation" of people who did not have the interests of Namibia at heart.

(2A1) pp 23/6/98

Starving bandits sell arms

PD 24/6/98

(221)

WINDHOEK: Illegal arms trading between starving ex-Unita bandits in southern Angola and Namibian villagers from West Caprivi has increased over the past two weeks, *The Namibian* reported yesterday.

The daily paper said arms, mostly AK-47 assault rifles, were exchanged for radios, mealie meal, cooking oil and other food normally smuggled into Angola by Namibian villagers.

Among the villagers were former South West African Territorial Force soldiers.

The Namibian quoted Oena Dihako, the head of community game guards of the Western Caprivi Headman's Council, as saying trade in AK-47s was booming again.

Dihako and his group have fought an uphill battle to remove illegal weapons from circulation.

He said that before the surge, there had been a downswing in barter in the deadly wares over the last three months.

But, he said, this had changed over the past fortnight.

Dihako said he was concerned

that an army of jobless but armed men in the West Caprivi might start indulging in armed robbery.

He said he had alerted the Namibia Defence Force and the police.

Unemployment could be the main reason why some Namibian villagers were buying firearms from former rebels in southern Angola.

The Angolans are reported to be desperate for food.

The Pan African News Agency (Pana) reported last week that there was severe drought in Angola's Cunene Province bordering Namibia.

The Angolan government had set up a commission into how severe the problem was.

The commission has to submit its report within 30 days, in a government bid "to prevent a disaster", Pana reported.

In one of the latest incidents of arms dealing, a Namibian bought an arsenal of five assault rifles, among them AK-47s and G-3s from the Angola bandits last Wednesday.

Community game guards were

tipped off about the illegal purchase.

But before they could mount a raid, the man had fled to Botswana.

Authorities in Botswana know his identity.

Another villager was caught in possession of illegal arms by the game guards in West Caprivi.

In the past five years, the guards have confiscated from villagers in the area more than 200 firearms, mostly AK-47 rifles, and an unspecified amount of ammunition.

The weapons have been handed over to the police and NDF soldiers in that area. There is still an amnesty in force in the area so Namibians caught in possession of illegal arms are not prosecuted unless they put up resistance when the guns are impounded.

Angolans found in possession of AK-47s are taken to the police and prosecuted.

A non-government organisation praised the guards for a "very positive role in getting those illegal weapons out of circulation".

— Independent Foreign Service

SA, Namibia to look at charging apartheid

Christof Maletsky and Dustin Chick

A TOP-level meeting between local and Namibian justice ministers, and subsequent establishment of a joint focus group, could lead to the prosecution of a number of apartheid era criminals for crimes committed in Namibia.

The establishment of the focus group followed a meeting between SA Justice Minister Dullah Omar and his Namibian coun-

terpart Ngarrikutuke Tjirange in Windhoek two weeks ago.

Omar said yesterday that the Namibian government had indicated during the meeting that it would like to make a number of extradition applications for common law crimes such as murder, but that some of those mentioned included former apartheid government officials.

Among those named were Civil Cooperation Bureau chief Joe Verstler as well as operatives Ferdi Barnard, Chappie Ma-

ree, Calla Botha, Wouter van Zyl, Staal Burger, Wouter Basson and Johan Niemoller — all of whom were referred to as "prima facie accomplices".

Tjirange said the focus group would instead investigate several pending cases and would not open its net wide to all apartheid era crimes.

Among the cases which would be tackled by the group included the September 1989 assassination of Namibian human rights activist Anton Lubowski. In 1994 an in-

quest by now retired judge Haroldt Levy found that operatives from the bureau were involved in Lubowski's killing.

Omar said the Lubowski matter had been discussed separately. He said that the Namibian government had requested no specific extraditions, but had rather asked for a number of SA witnesses to be subpoenaed to testify in Windhoek — a matter the focus group would look into.

Others who could find themselves in the dock included Darryl Stopforth and

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Leonard Veenendal who were involved in an 1989 attack on the United Nations office in Outjo during the Namibian elections there, as well as the murder of a Namibian security guard.

Omar said extradition orders had been signed for the two, but that they had appealed to the high court for the orders to be set aside on the grounds that they had applied for amnesty.

The court ruled that amnesty could not be used as a defence because the crimes

took place outside of SA. The matter is currently before the Supreme Court of Appeal in Bloemfontein.

The focus group would include Pretoria attorney general Jan D'Oliviera, Omar's chief consultant Mehard Rwelamira and Namibian prosecutor general Hans Heyman. Omar said the focus group would begin its work as soon as possible as many justice officials from both countries were attending an international conference on international criminal court.

era operatives



Sam Nujoma ... crossing swords with 'foreigners'.

Nujoma in wars over 'white threat'

(221)

Claims are racist, says DTA

TABBY MOYO
Windhoek

Threats made by President Sam Nujoma at the weekend to deport or "deal with" white foreigners accused of disturbing the peace in Namibia have caused an uproar.

Nujoma said when he addressed a meeting of traditional leaders at the northern district of Rundu, that white foreigners were bent on dividing Namibians on ethnic grounds and had opposed some of the government's key projects such as the proposed hydropower scheme at Epupa, near the border with Angola.

"Stop that or we will deport you from this country," the president fumed.

Nujoma particularly lashed out at the Legal Assistance Centre which has been acting on behalf of the Himba community opposed to the Epupa scheme. He accused the LAC of supplying a British magazine with false information to the effect that the Himba community was being marginalised by government because it backed the South African settlers during

the colonial period. Nujoma said it was the last time he would warn the "white crooks from Europe".

Mishake Muyongo, president of the main opposition party, the DTA of Namibia, said Nujoma was damaging the country's peace and stability through his racist and divisive comments about whites and "foreigners".

He told a press conference it was difficult to understand what the proposed legislation on the Prohibition of Racial Discrimination at present before the National Assembly could achieve in the face of blatant racist remarks by the president.

"He should be above playing to the small racist gallery in the Namibian population if he wants to deserve the name of statesman that his supporters like to give him," Muyongo said.

"What does President Nujoma understand by democracy if he believes that the Himba people have been unpatriotic because they dared to obtain legal advice from the Legal Assistance Centre? And because

they dare to disagree about the value of the Epupa scheme.

"It is every Namibian's democratic right to differ from the government of the day, and from any and every leader, including Sam Nujoma. Or does he believe that the Himbas are less Namibian because they are Himbas?"

"Is it really his belief that only those who slavishly agree with him and his government are entitled to the benefits of being Namibian citizens?"

"Surely, just because the president is blind, this does not mean all Namibians must also be blind?" the DTA

president said.

Muyongo questioned whether it was wise to allow Nujoma to run for a third term in view of his recent divisive remarks.

"By threatening whites and so-called foreigners he seems to define a foreigner as anyone of European extraction who disagrees with him, even if they were born and bred here - he is in fact undermining the very peace and stability which is one thing Namibia has until now been able to offer prospective investors.

"The message he is now sending to the international community about the relationship between white and black in this country will do Namibia enormous damage in the long term," Muyongo said.

He said the Namibian government had been using the same vocabulary and methods since independence to create divisions along tribal and ethnic lines throughout the country, and more particularly in the northern areas such as Caprivi and Kavango regions.

The governor of the Caprivi region, John Mabuku, said it was Nujoma's ministers who were responsible for stirring up ethnic tension and not "white foreigners" as claimed by the president.

Mabuku said he was "deeply disappointed" by Nujoma's reference to white people as settlers.

Mabuku said tribal tensions had been sparked by some government ministers who campaign behind the scenes to promote certain tribal groups.

"We are not going to allow any person to destroy the culture of other people. We are going to stick to our culture," he vowed. He urged the government to identify the real culprits causing tribal tension and not to scapegoat whites who were blameless.

President of the Namibia Movement for Independent Candidates, Joseph Kauandenge, said Nujoma's "threats are nothing else than words coming from a frustrated head of state for reasons known to himself, who in all honesty has lost track of diplomacy".

"The words (about) whites and foreigners do not augur well for the spirit of national reconciliation, and unfounded allegations by the president must be dismissed with the contempt they deserve," Kauandenge said.

Tribal conflicts in this country were not being perpetuated by foreigners but by government and some "incompetent" officials in government, he said.

Chief of the marginalised 6 000-strong Kxoe community in West Caprivi, Kippie George, also denied that tribal tension in the region had been stirred or fuelled by "white foreigners". - Star Foreign Service

Bid for third term may be foiled by empty posts

Christof Maletsky

PD 30/6/98

(221)

WINDHOEK — President Sam Nujoma's proposed third term in office could be on the rocks because of the failure to appoint the country's electoral commission and a director of elections.

Legal sources said that because of the length of time needed for parliament to adopt amendments to the Electoral Act — and then appoint a new electoral commission — the holding of regional polls this year

could virtually be ruled out.

It is possible that the regional vote will be delayed to as late as April next year, thus putting it closer to the National Assembly and presidential elections due in November 1999.

Some observers believe this may affect adversely voter turnout as some voters may be unwilling to go to the polls twice in seven months.

In addition, the Regional Councils Act will have to be amended to extend the terms of office for regional councils, which officially expire at the end of this year.

The legal sources said the delays in appointing a new electoral commission might affect plans for the president's third term, especially if a referendum on the issue was held before the end of next year.

The ruling Swapo party is to hold an extraordinary congress in August, when it is expected to discuss the third-term issue and decide on a mechanism for changing the Namibian constitution. Some quarters believe a referendum will be held to seek a "popular mandate" for the third term, although this could present a logistical nightmare for election officials.

Sources said that as the terms of office of the commission and the director expired at the end of March, their current legal "absence" could be challenged in the courts.

Preparations for the regional elections are already months behind schedule, although the new delimitation commission is reported to have gone to great lengths in recent months to complete its work of naming new regional boundaries.

If the poll was to be held this year, amendments to the Electoral Act should have already come before the national assembly. The amendments deal with the appointment of a chief electoral officer (to replace the director of elections) and the establishment of a selection committee for the commission, as well as other changes to election procedures.

Once the amendments are approved, the standing committee on privileges of parliament will have to determine the qualifications of the five members of the commission, while the judge president's office, Law Society and ombudsman must nominate the selection committee which, in turn, and after proclamation by law, must invite nominations for members of the electoral commission.

However, such a proclamation was not possible without the services of an elections director who must initiate the process, these legal sources said.

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RICHARD BRANSON...

SEE NEXT PAGE

Falling rand likely to aid Namibia's debt repayment

Christof Maletsky

100 9/7/98

(221)

WINDHOEK — The rand's fall against the dollar is expected to have a positive effect on Namibia's balance of payments, but it has also meant that local banks have been forced to follow SA trends by raising interest rates.

The Namibian dollar is linked to the rand and local economists say the size of Namibia's economy does not permit it to decouple from the SA currency.

Tsuda Gurirab, executive director of Premier Economists, said except for beef and livestock which were marketed on the hoof in SA, most exports were sold for hard currency in Europe, which should benefit Namibia's balance of payments.

However, the rand's fall has led to major banks increasing their prime lending rates by between 1,50% and 2,25% over the past two weeks. The price of imported goods, petrol and general transport is expected to rise.

First National Bank Namibia MD Stuart Moir noted recently that more interest rate increases would be inevitable if market conditions persisted.

Economist Emile van Zyl said the higher interest rates came at a particularly bad time, with the economy in a downsizing phase. "Agricultural condi-

tions are weak, the rising commodity prices have had a negative effect on disposable income and one can expect the weak rand to lead to a petrol price rise as well as an increase in transport costs." However, he did not believe the rand could drop further, and said SA's economic fundamentals were sound.

Van Zyl said the rand's depreciation would improve Namibia's export earnings. The fishing industry's future was bright after higher quota announcements, while the tourism industry should also benefit from foreigners exploiting the weak rand.

Gurirab noted with dismay the lack of movement of Namibian shares on the Namibian Stock Exchange over the past fortnight. "Only dual-listed shares, which are also listed on the Johannesburg Stock Exchange, showed any movement. Namibian shares are mostly held by Namibian institutions or SA pension fund companies, which are bound by the Pensions Fund Act which stipulates that life insurance companies should have 35% of their savings in Namibia.

"These companies have complied with the minimum criteria. But after buying their stock, they are just sitting on it — there is no trade and consequently no liquidity in the NSE."

COMP

Imported waste-to-energy proposal for Walvis Bay is turned down

Namibia spurns EnviroServ

CT (MAR) 15/7/98 (221)

FROM SAPA

Windhoek — The Namibian government has turned down proposals by EnviroServ, the South African waste management company, to develop a waste-to-energy plant to fuel the country's future electricity needs.

The Namibian newspaper reported yesterday that EnviroServ had approached the Walvis Bay municipality with a proposal to set up a plant to convert municipal solid waste to energy. The waste would come from New York.

The government said it would not tolerate any proposal to dump imported waste anywhere in Namibia.

EnviroServ said yesterday it would not participate in a proposal to import domestic waste from New York to Africa.

"EnviroServ is no longer considering

this project in Namibia and is no longer involved in the tender to handle New York waste," said Alistair McLean, the chief executive.

McLean said last year the firm had tendered to handle domestic waste from New York should there be interest in establishing waste-to-energy plants in Africa.

"On this basis, EnviroServ made an approach to the Walvis Bay municipality ... who expressed interest in developing a waste-to-energy plant to fuel their electricity needs," he said.

"However, we have recently been made aware that the Namibian government is opposed to the importation of waste for a waste-to-energy plant."

The paper said EnviroServ had now been contracted to work on a project with the Danish government to burn imported obsolete pesticides in Mozambique.

Another plan to incinerate pesticides is under fire from environmental groups

McLean said EnviroServ had recently been commissioned to clean up 200 tons of redundant pesticides in Mozambique in a project overseen by the national government and sponsored by Danida, the Danish government development agency.

He said the six-month contract involved the removal of banned and redundant chemicals from 38 storage sites in Mozambique and transporting them to Maputo for disposal by a third party contracted by the Mozambican government.

International environment pressure groups such as the Environmental Justice Networking Forum and Greenpeace have challenged the Danish government's incineration proposals in Mozambique, arguing that no southern African country could monitor or control the import or export of hazardous waste.

They feared that this proposal would lead to the illegal importation of toxic waste into Mozambique, posing a serious threat to people and the environment.

with racist utterances

(221) PD 16/7/98

Namibia's president is increasing showing both racial and general political intolerance, writes David Kashweka in Windhoek

PRESIDENT Sam Nujoma has come under fire from a range of critics over the past few weeks for a series of public remarks about "Europeans" and "foreigners" living in the country.

"Go Nujoma, go" and "Nujoma is unfit to govern" were some of the headlined responses in Namibian newspapers recently.

Critics say Nujoma's claims — these include accusing unnamed Europeans of trying to divide Namibia on ethnic grounds — amount to political blunders, particularly given that the electorate is sharply divided over planned amendments to the constitution to enable him to secure a controversial third term.

Critics, including the opposition in the Namibian parliament, say Nujoma should have assessed his political stakes last month before he threw a broadside at "foreigners", especially "whites".

At the Divudu Rehabilitation Centre in the northern part of the country last month, Nujoma accused people he termed "Europeans" and alternately "whites" of trying to divide Namibia on ethnic grounds.

He was speaking in an area where a small, marginalised tribal group, the Kxoe, is facing eviction from its ancestral area to make room for a government prison rehabilitation centre.

The Kxoe are also angry with the government for allegedly trying to subject them to the authority of a tribe which is believed to support the ruling Swapo party.

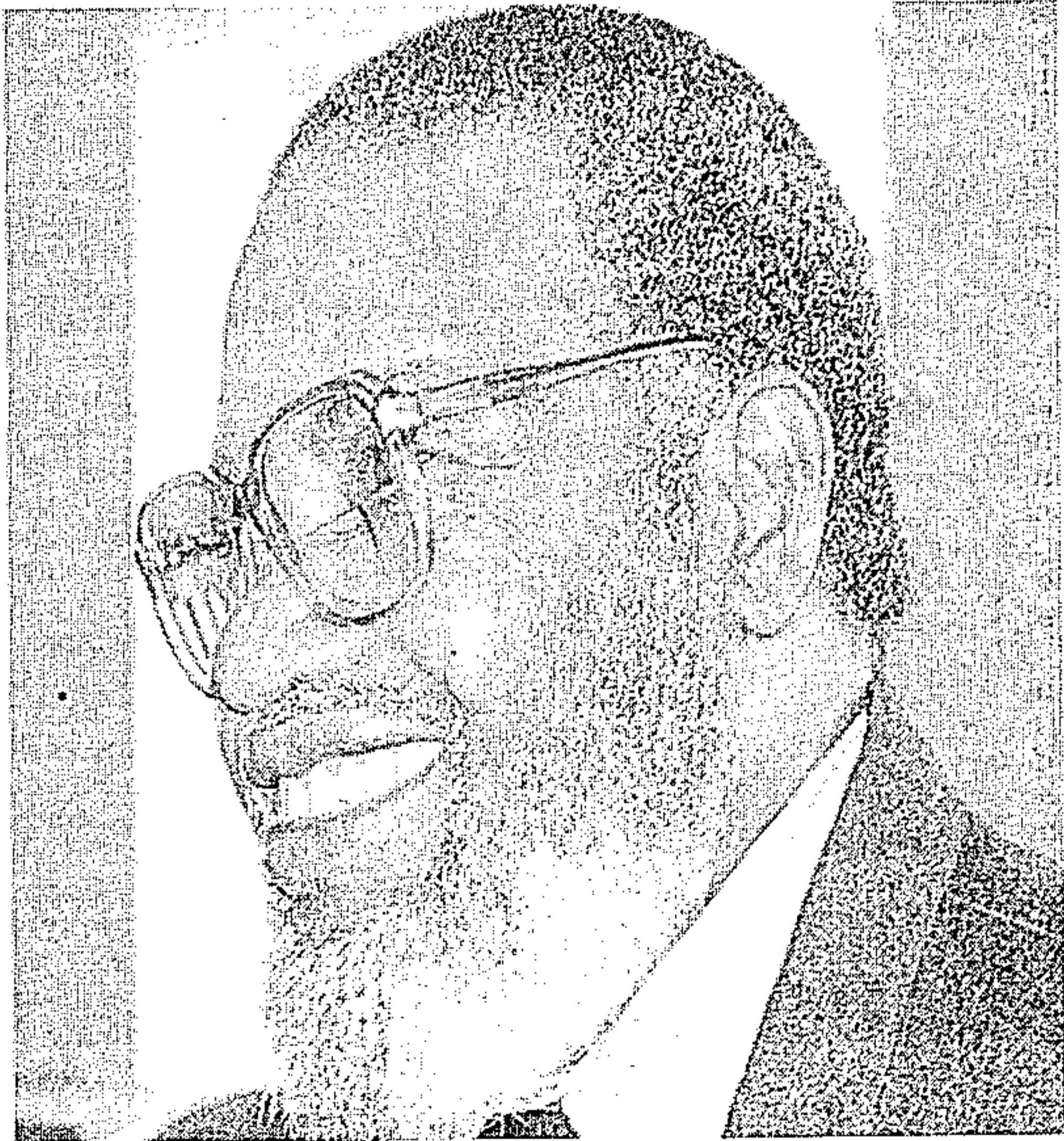
The leader of the opposition Democratic Turnhalle Alliance (DTA), Mishake Muyongo, has accused the president of "damaging the country's peace and stability" with his "racist and divisive comments about whites and foreigners".

Muyongo referred to a bill presently being debated in parliament which seeks to prohibit racial discrimination, saying it was difficult to understand what it could achieve in the face of Nujoma's remarks. "He should be above playing to the racist gallery in the Namibian population if he wants to deserve the name of statesman that his supporters like to give him," he said.

Muyongo asked what Nujoma understood by the term "democracy" if he believed the Himba and Kxoe people had been unpatriotic because they dared to obtain assistance from the Legal Assistance Centre.

Muyongo argued that by threatening whites and "foreigners", Nujoma seemed to hold to a definition of a foreigner as anyone of European extraction who disagreed with him even if they had been born and bred in Namibia.

Meanwhile, the trustees and



Namibia's President Sam Nujoma is under fire

managers of the Legal Assistance Centre have expressed "shock and regret" at Nujoma's accusations, saying that claims it promoted ethnic divisions were "completely unwarranted".

Ironically, Nujoma supported the centre's past work in exposing human rights abuses by the apartheid government and the assistance it gave to many Namibians whose rights were violated during the liberation war.

Since independence, its role has evolved greatly to meet post-independence challenges, and it acts on behalf of vulnerable and marginalised individuals and communities.

It has also contributed to the concept of nation-building by working with government and nongovernmental organisations on projects.

The centre is concerned by Nujoma's attitude, and emphasises that each person or community in Namibia has the right to legal representation, and that this is fundamental to the rule of law, a cornerstone of the country's constitution.

It points out that those who do not otherwise have access to the legal system, such as the Himbas and the Kxoes of West Caprivi, are the ones who most need its help and have sought advice on land rights.

The centre has gone on the record saying that if the Epupa Dam goes ahead, the spiritual importance of the land and the Epupa Falls will be lost forever.

"From the Himba point of view, they will not benefit in any way. They will probably not get jobs from the project; they will not use the water or the power it is hoped will be generated."

The Namibia Nongovernmental Organisation's Forum has thrown its weight behind the legal centre, saying it was baffled by government's concerns about the centre.

Forum director Uhuru Dempers said the legal centre had been recognised both locally and internationally for its consistent challenge of human rights violations by the authorities and other agencies, and by defending marginalised and disadvantaged Namibians.

Meanwhile, the local regional governor for Caprivi, John Mabuku, has said he fears that such remarks from Nujoma could kill the whole spirit of reconciliation which the Namibian government encouraged from the time it gained independence.

He joins a growing number of people expressing concern about plans for the constitution to be amended to allow Nujoma to stand for a third presidential term. Many argue that this was an indication Nujoma was not building a sound future for Namibia and that he should stand down in favour of younger politicians with a fresh vision.

Many have expressed concern about what could amount to growing political intolerance in the country.

AFRICA NEWS DIGEST

□ NAMIBIA

(221)

ET (MR) 22/7/98

Shell's Kudu power station weakens the profit potential of state scheme

The profitability of the Namibian government's proposed hydroelectric power scheme at Epupa in the Kunene region is expected to suffer a severe setback when Shell Exploration and Production Namibia puts its proposed Kudu power station into operation, it was revealed on Monday.

Eckart Meyn, the managing director of Shell Exploration and Production Namibia, said the Kudu gas-fired 750MW power station near Oranjemund and its second-phase extension would supply gas and power to South Africa's Western Cape, the market earmarked for the government's Epupa power scheme. The Kudu gas field is located some 170km offshore from Namibia near the border of South Africa. The life span of the Kudu gas power plant is 20 years, with significantly greater reserves expected to be found.

Martin Solomon, the commercial manager of Shell Exploration and Production Namibia, described the planned Western Cape development as "particularly attractive" because there was no strong primary fuel supply in that part of South Africa. Solomon said the project's first phase would encompass the development of offshore facilities and a pipeline to Oranjemund representing a capital investment of some 2,3 billion Namibian dollars (R2,3 billion). Solomon said so far exploration results supported the company's confidence that there was much more gas in Kudu, and it was planning to start a second drilling campaign next month. — *Sapa, Windhoek*

Illegal settlers on 10 Namibian farms vow to fight government's eviction order

BY TARRY MOYO
Star Foreign Service

Windhoek--Fifty-six families which the Namibian government wants evicted from 10 farms they have illegally occupied in the country's central regions of Otjohararu, Kunene and Otjozondjupa

have demanded the setting up of a commission of inquiry into the status of all farms purchased by government since independence.

The farmers have accused government officials in the ministry of lands, resettlement and rehabilitation of nepotism and corruption in

the resettlement process of landless Namibians. Reacting to a high court order served on them recently, the families vowed not to vacate the farms they have illegally moved onto since November last year and said they would challenge the eviction order in court.

The farmers had been given until July 27 to file opposing affidavits to the temporary order given by the high court a fortnight ago.

In a statement last week following consultations with lawyers, the group said it was intent on arguing

against the eviction order on the basis that they had applied for resettlement as far back as 1992 but had been ignored by government.

Lands Minister Pendumken Ithana said the government farms had suffered irreparable harm at the hands of the illegal settlers.

She acknowledged that the resettlement process had been slowed down by the "time-consuming" procedures prescribed in the Agricultural (Commercial) Land Reform Act, but said the procedures had to be adhered to for the sake of fairness to all people.

(27)

Sam wants to play it again

MTC 31/7-6/8/98 (221)

John Grobler

The South West African People's Organisation (Swapo) leadership is expected to propose amending the Namibian Constitution this month to give President Sam Nujoma a third term of office.

The Constitution restricts the president to two terms, but at the Swapo extraordinary congress, set to take place at the end of August, party stalwarts hope to push through an endorsement of Nujoma's quest for a third term.

The Swapo leadership has made it clear they will use their 72% majority in Parliament to amend the Constitution. Swapo secretary general Hifekepunye Pohamba says Nujoma was not directly elected in 1990, and this term should not count.

At Swapo's 1997 congress, Nujoma's quest

for another term was endorsed, and public defiance by party members will probably result in expulsion. But public support for Nujoma has been less enthusiastic this time, especially from Minister of Trade and Industry Hideo Hamutenya and Minister of Higher Education Nahas Angula.

A recent survey among Namibia's young intellectuals indicated that the ruling party has all but lost them, and that they would vote for anyone but Swapo under the present leadership.

Nujoma has responded to this by aligning himself with calls from hardline unionists, like Ponhele ya France, for nationalisation of Namibia's mines and confiscation of commercial farmland without compensation. These measures would be illegal under the Constitution.

Nujoma has warned Namibia's mostly white farmers that he will increase agricultural taxes

unless they support his land reform programmes. In reality, this is something that neither the government nor the farmers can afford. Most absentee land-owners are Germans, and the government has signed a protection-of-investment agreement with the German government that guarantees market-related pay-outs for any property the government seizes.

Of late, Nujoma has also been ardently soliciting support among the less-educated Swapo supporters in northern, rural Namibia, where he recently lambasted foreigners "for creating ethnic division" among Namibians.

In particular, he lashed out at "Americans and Germans" for opposing his grandiose plans to construct a hydro-electric dam on the Cunene River in Koakoland, an area where Swapo has never enjoyed any significant political support.

Nujoma launched a virulent attack on the Legal Assistance Centre (LAC) for supporting the Epupa community, on whose land he would like to see the tallest dam in Africa built for R4.5-billion — roughly two-thirds of the national budget. Continuing support for this community could get these foreigners deported, Nujoma threatened.

The LAC wisely maintained a diplomatic silence. Support was, however, immediately forthcoming from a powerful friend: United States ambassador George F. Ward publicly praised the LAC and promised more financial support for its work.

Nujoma's extraordinary outburst against foreigners was seen as a measure of his frustration at objections by the powerful foreign donor community in Namibia to his ambitions.



Sam Nujoma: Wants a third term as president of Namibia

the United Nations General Assembly in 1999, where he would be hard-pressed to defend Nujoma's unconstitutional actions.

But Nujoma's strongest challenger may be Hamutenya, who represents the powerful Kwanyama faction within Swapo. The fact that he not been sidelined in five Cabinet reshuffles in eight years is seen as a measure of his power.

Swapo's huge parliamentary majority may yet prove to be its undoing. Members of the National Council — more in touch with grassroots support than the members of the National Assembly — have protested against a top-heavy political structure that favours the old guard.

The editor of *The Namibian* newspaper, Gwen Lister, has suggested the issue of the third term can only be decided by secret parliamentary ballot. While she did not hold out much hope for a secret ballot at the Swapo congress, Lister wrote recently, prominent party members espoused different views in private than in public.

It was therefore incumbent upon the speaker of Namibia's Parliament, Mose Tjitendero, to assure that any proposed constitutional changes be decided by secret ballot, Lister wrote.

It is, however, highly unlikely that Swapo would abide by calls for a secret ballot at its congress in Windhoek. But as Tjitendero is elected by the National Assembly, he may be democracy's last hope in Namibia.

Ostensibly, next month's Swapo congress will debate and implement political reforms to "harmonise and streamline" party structures in line with proposals from a special committee. But the committee is headed by Foreign Minister Theo-Ben Gurirab and Hamutenya.

As Swapo's foremost intellectual and self-avowed democrat, Gurirab is set to assume the revolving presidency of

Swapo's 'madness in exile' haunts victims

201 Sowetan 4/8/98

By Christof Maletsky

WINDHOEK - "He was a total wreck when I met him in Mukakuyu prison in 1985," recalls Reinhard Gertze. "A little man, very vulnerable, almost like a severely malnourished child."

Gertze will never forget the final sufferings of his long-time friend, Bernardus Petrus. The prison where he died the following year was part of the notorious "Lubango Dungeons", run by Namibia's ruling South West Africa People's Organisation (Swapo) in exile in Angola.

At least 1 500 people are said to have died in detention at the Lubango base - mostly from torture or starvation. Many had been wrongly accused of spying.

Pressure is now mounting on Swapo to tell the full story of Lubango and to apologise for misdeeds committed there. There are growing calls for a truth commission on the lines of the South African model to foster national reconciliation.

Twenty years ago Gertze - now aged 37 and working for a non-government organisation in Windhoek - left what was then South African-occupied territory in search of education with Swapo in exile.

Thrown in the dungeons

He was helped to flee by Petrus, a political activist being sought by the apartheid regime and who became a political commissar with Swapo's military wing.

But both he and Gertze were later accused of being South African agents and thrown in the dungeons.

Widespread torture was reported. Detainees complained of being burnt and beaten. Many were kept in isolation. Rations were paltry.

Gertze describes 1986 as "the year of darkness and hell, in which disease struck us in our mass dungeons. Not 'disease' in the real sense of the word but malnourishment. Many of my inmates died".

Petrus died in November that year. He was very weak, and Gertze remembers a warder giving his friend some form of intravenous drip. Rather than gaining strength, Petrus lost feeling in his feet.

Nujoma and the party of reverting "to the finger-pointing tactics of the movement in exile". At issue is a process of healing, truthfulness and accountability; that forms the basis of national reconciliation, he says.

The period in exile was very difficult. South Africa sent spies to infiltrate Swapo, and the discovery of agents in their midst bred fear and suspicion among party officials.

"It became very difficult for them to distinguish between real and imaginary agents. The majority of people hurt were not spies but people who had the courage to ask questions."

Swapo should acknowledge that the party "sometimes went too far", says Diescho, and believes the right person to take the lead is Nujoma.

"If he tells what happened, people will be able to commit themselves to reconciliation. The only way out is for Swapo to acknowledge that atrocities were committed and people disappeared and to apologise. Only then can Namibians move forward as a nation." - *Gemini News*.

According to Gertze, Petrus started vomiting green fluid and doctors ordered other detainees to leave him. They never saw him again.

Another friend in prison, Oiva Angula, says: "Beni's spirit remained unbroken. What hurt him so much was not what his tormentors did to him and his inmates, but what the people of conscience did not do to stop the madness within Swapo in exile."

Detainees were freed before Namibian independence in 1990. But Angula wants the Lubango story told in full. "This should be done while some of those who masterminded this calamity are still alive."

Start a process of healing

"They need to tell their part of the story. I want to know what propelled them to such depths of bestiality. I am yearning to tell my part. This, I think, will start a process of healing leading towards real reconciliation."

Another former inmate, Johannes Mihe Gaomab, says the authorities are still persecuting him. He says he was arrested last October after being accused of plotting to overthrow the government but not charged.

He fears there may be a plan to make him "disappear", and has given details of his case to an organisation called Breaking the Wall of Silence (BWS), that was set up a few years ago to help former detainees.

The government has so far rejected calls for a truth commission or admission of wrongdoing at Lubango. Swapo appears reluctant to shed more light on the subject and has lashed out at those calling for it.

When the BWS movement was launched, Moses Garoeb, then labour minister and party general secretary, who died last September, called on Swapo members to "prepare for civil war".

Officials have also scorned the Council of Churches in Namibia for organising a conference to address the issue of reconciliation. And when German Lutheran Church pastor Siegfried Groth wrote *The Wall of Silence*, dealing with the issue of Swapo dissidents in exile, President Sam Nujoma attacked the "allegations and lies" in the book.

However, Joseph Diescho, a former Swapo official and university lecturer, now a political analyst, accuses



Namibian president Sam Nujoma

Nujoma's third term may cause insecurity

7/8/98 (221)

WINDHOEK—A third term in office for Namibian President Sam Nujoma was likely to increase insecurity among Namibians, the Namibian National Society for Human Rights said in a report released on Wednesday.

In its 1997 human rights report, the society said the Namibian political situation had deteriorated considerably under Nujoma's presidency.

"We began to witness intolerance towards freedom of expression and the state began violating a number of basic rights.

"This scenario is caused by centralised, highly personalised and winner-takes-all form of political rule maintained through coercion and a culture of fear and silence.

"A third term for Nujoma is likely to result in increased insecurity," claimed the report.

However, it praised the country's stability since independence.

Government was commended for ratifying virtually all major international human rights treat-

ies, passing the Affirmative Action Bill and for amending the Racial Discrimination Bill.

The society's executive director, Philya Nangoloh, also expressed concern about "what appears to be a campaign of character assassination and vilification directed against the print media, particularly The Namibian and its editor". Nangoloh said most of the hostility towards The Namibian was motivated by intolerance of the critical views published on Nujoma's third term in office as well as exposing corruption.

The report said there were 23 incidents of serious infringement upon freedom of speech and expression, adding that most of these were targeted at privately owned media.

There were seven cases of torture, inhuman and degrading treatment, while nine cases of abuse of power and criminal liability on the part of police and the defence force were recorded, said Nangoloh. — Sapa.

Nujoma's third term not favoured

A THIRD term in office by Namibia's president Sam Nujoma was likely to increase insecurity among Namibians, the Namibian National Society for Human Rights (NSHR) said in a report released this week.

In its 1997 human rights report, the NSHR said the Namibian political situation had deteriorated under Nujoma's presidency.

"We began to witness intolerance towards freedom of expression and the state began violating a number of basic rights.

Culture of fear

"This scenario is caused by heavily centralised, highly personalised and winner-takes-all form of political rule maintained through coercion and a culture of fear and silence.

"A third term for Nujoma is likely to result in increased human insecurity," the report claims.

However, it praised the country's stability since independence.

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Nangoloh said most of the hostility towards the *Namibian* was motivated by intolerance of the critical views published on Nujoma's third term in office as well as exposing corruption within the public service.

The report said there were 23 incidents of serious infringement of free-

dom of speech and expression, adding that most of these were targeted at privately owned media.

Nangoloh said the majority of the attacks were made during the first half of this year.

Cases of torture

There were seven cases of torture, inhuman and degrading treatment, while nine cases of abuse of power and criminal liability on the part of police and the defence force were recorded, said Nangoloh.

The NSHR also expressed concern over increased budgets for the defence force, the special field force and the intelligence service for the current financial year.

"Such agencies have the potential of being used in massive violations of human rights and such budgetary allocations do not help to reduce human insecurity," said Nangoloh. - *Sapa*.

(221)

Source: *Sapa* 7/8/98

Namibia loses soldiers to the conflict in Kinshasa

Christof Maletsky

WINDHOEK — At least two Namibian Defence Force soldiers, fighting alongside the Zimbabwean troops in the Democratic Republic of Congo, have been shot dead, while others have been wounded or reported missing, say defence-linked sources.

The report was not confirmed by the government, but it came as President Sam Nujoma admitted for the first time that Namibia had sent troops to fight on the side of beleaguered Congolese President Laurent Kabila.

The sources said the two soldiers had been killed in fighting at Kitona near the Cabinda enclave and Boma about 102km from the mouth of the Congo River.

The sources said they had been killed along with about seven Zimbabwean soldiers in an artillery attack by rebels fighting Kabila.

No names or personal details of the dead Namibian soldiers were provided, as no official identification has been made so far. The soldiers' remains are reportedly at Angola's Soyo airport, after being moved from the Democratic

Republic of Congo.

Nujoma's admission of involvement in the Congo came as Defence Minister Erkki Nghimtina continued to deny reports of Namibian troops there.

The official cover-up had in any case become hard to maintain as Zimbabwe and Congolese President Laurent Kabila had already confirmed the presence of Namibian troops in Congo.

Nujoma told a Heroes Day service in Windhoek yesterday that the Namibian government was in Congo to "ensure peace and stability".

"On the Congo crisis, the Republic of Namibia is clear ... the government will support President Laurent Kabila ... our forces are there," Nujoma said.

The British Broadcasting Corporation also reported on Wednesday that a platoon of Namibian soldiers had arrived in Kinshasa to help Kabila and Angolan and Zimbabwean troops.

Sources at Grootfontein military base also confirmed that the Namibian Defence Force continued to load trucks with weapons and ammunition heading north. Different sources said the equipment was going to Angola, being transported from there to the Congo.

(221)

20 28/8/98

(~~REDACTED~~)

Nujoma orders 30 000 body bags

bags

John Grobler

The first body bags arrived in Namibia from Kinshasa this week as a credibility gap as wide as the Congo started opening up around President Sam Nujoma.

After days of obdurate denials, the Ministry of Defence confirmed this week that Namibian Defence Force (NDF) soldier Lazarus Hiskia had been killed in fighting on the outskirts of Kinshasa. Although representative Vincent Mwange insisted that he was the only casualty, at least five more body bags are rumoured to have been delivered to the Grootfontein airbase.

Nujoma's unilateral decision to send troops to defend embattled Democratic Republic of Congo's President Laurent Kabila drew the first fire last week when Namibia's high commissioner to London, Ben Ulenka, resigned in protest.

Ulenka bravely put his own future on the line, citing the reluctance of ruling party South West African People's Organisation (Swapo) to break Nujoma's stranglehold on the reins of power and the foreign policy crisis unleashed by his military adventurism.

The central reason for the crisis was Nujoma's unwillingness to allow his proposed third term as president to be discussed at all at an extraordinary Swapo congress held last weekend, and which was originally planned for this very purpose. The issue was simply buried and a third, unconstitutional term for Nujoma presented as a *fait accompli*.

"The leadership problems in Swapo have now reached critical proportions," Ulenka said, noting the government's inability to deal with unemployed ex-guerrillas, political prisoners, the land issue and the Congo crisis as evidence of "a profound lack and total absence of coherent policy."

"Given recent experience and current happenings, one can, within reason, only expect much more of the same from five more years of the present leadership."

Ulenka is a former Robben Island inmate (1976 to 1985) and trade unionist who helped bring Swapo to power in 1990.

Informed sources this week said that at no stage had Nujoma informed either his Cabinet or Parliament of his intentions to become embroiled in the Central African conflict. Neither was it raised at last Friday's congress, where Nujoma's right-hand man, Hifekepunye Pohamba, pushed through changes to the party constitution that effectively centralise and extend Nujoma's extensive powers as party chair down to regional level.

Meanwhile, disquieting evidence of the extent of Nujoma's personal involvement in the Congo conflict surfaced. The presence of Namibian troops in Kinshasa was secret until disclosed by Zimbabwe, but evidence now points to early preparations by the NDF.

A Namibian businessman said all suppliers to the NDF were invited to an urgent, top-secret meeting with top brass at defence headquarters in Windhoek, where they were asked to submit tenders for paramilitary equipment.

"The crazy thing was, they asked us for something like 30 000 body bags, zip-up numbers that could withstand tropical conditions," said the businessman on condition of anonymity. The rest of the order was for camouflage rainwear, he said. "We complied, but we had no idea what the hell they wanted it for, and they weren't telling."

Nujoma increased the National State Intelligence Agency's (NSIA) portion of the 1998/1999 budget by a massive 40% — and despite repeated demands for explanations by opposition politicians in Parliament, none was ever given. With Swapo holding 72% of the national council seats, pushing through the NSIA budget was a mere formality. Both the NDF and NSIA fall directly under Nujoma — the NSIA, thought to be handling the Congo involvement, operates directly from State House.

Over the past two weeks, mysterious planes have been landing and taking off at night from Grootfontein at regular intervals, as well as from Windhoek's smaller Eros airport; Zimbabwean President Robert Mugabe's jet was there this week. Despite eyewitness accounts, no official was willing to comment — all in-

quiries to the Directorate Civil Aviation, airport management and related structures were referred to Minister of Works, Transport and Communication Hampie Plichta.

Like all other top government officials, Plichta was personally appointed by Nujoma, who has over the past eight years built up a massive system of power and patronage that makes nonsense of government claims of transparency and accountability. Plichta told local newspapers he knew nothing at all about the planes.

"It's an open secret that there are two hierarchies in Namibian politics," said an African diplomat. "There's the hierarchy of official positions in government, and there is a hidden hierarchy of appointed officials whose power depends on their level of personal access to Nujoma."

One part of this hierarchy is the NDF, whose

top brass has been spending an inordinate amount of time in Luanda since the Congo crisis began. Nujoma, as commander of the NDF, revels in the role of military man, despite his disastrous track record in this field.

Ironically, Nujoma now appears to be relying on the same people who frustrated his military ambitions during Swapo's 23-year-long independence struggle. Various sources in the NDF this week said former soldiers of the South West Africa Territory Forces (SWATF), since incorporated into the NDF, were actively being recruited for duty in the Congo. This is borne out to an extent by the death of Hiskia — he and a large part of the Third Battalion he had served in were former SWATF soldiers.

Meanwhile, Nujoma's ambitions to control Namibia absolutely by virtue of appointing regional party organisers to Swapo's central com-

MTG 4-10/9/98
mittee looks as if it may yet backfire on him. With regional elections due in December, Nujoma had the politically important constituencies changed to suit his scheme — and now voters have to register again. But so far, less than 10% of the voters appear to have done so — and word from the voter-rich communal areas of northern Namibia is that they are not interested. This is as serious a blow to democracy as it is to Nujoma, political analysts point out — but it may be necessary to break down Nujoma's personalised structures at grassroots level to effect real democracy. And for a change, there is light at the end of the tunnel in the form of Ulenka. As he said in announcing his resignation: "I am aware that clear, directed and determined leadership is of the essence. Subject to the democratic views of others, I am prepared to take up the challenge."

Swapo urges third term for Nujoma

PD 30/9/98

(221)

Christof Maletsky

WINDHOEK — The ruling South West African People's Organisation (Swapo) party has made a renewed bid to get Namibian President Sam Nujoma to stand for the third term.

In a television broadcast this week, the party said Nujoma's first term, when he was elected by the constituent assembly, should not be bound by the supreme law's restriction of two terms for the president.

Party secretary-general Hifikepune Pohamba said they would initiate a change to the constitution in the national assembly "as per instructions of the majority of the Namibian people".

In a lengthy statement which concluded with a call for Namibians to vote en masse for Nujoma at next year's presidential elections, Pohamba called on Namibians "... not to be misled by people who do not wish our country and people well".

Since there has been no referendum on the third-term issue, it seems Pohamba believes Swapo has the right to represent "the majority" as it was the largest party after the 1994 election.

A third term was not mentioned in the party's manifesto for that election.

The Democratic Turnhalle Alliance, the main opposition party that holds 15 of the 72 seats in parliament, plans to respond to the latest Swapo bid to change the constitution. Previously, the party has opposed Swapo's move to extend Nujoma's term.

Pohamba challenged critics of the third term to come up with their own

candidate. "Why do those who are against another term of office for President Nujoma not come up with their own candidate and let the people of Namibia make their choice in the presidential and national assembly elections scheduled for 1999?" he said.

He also dismissed as untrue arguments that the issue of another term of office for Nujoma had not been adequately discussed and debated. "That is not true. This issue is continuously and widely debated in radio talks shows, on national television and our newspapers," he said.

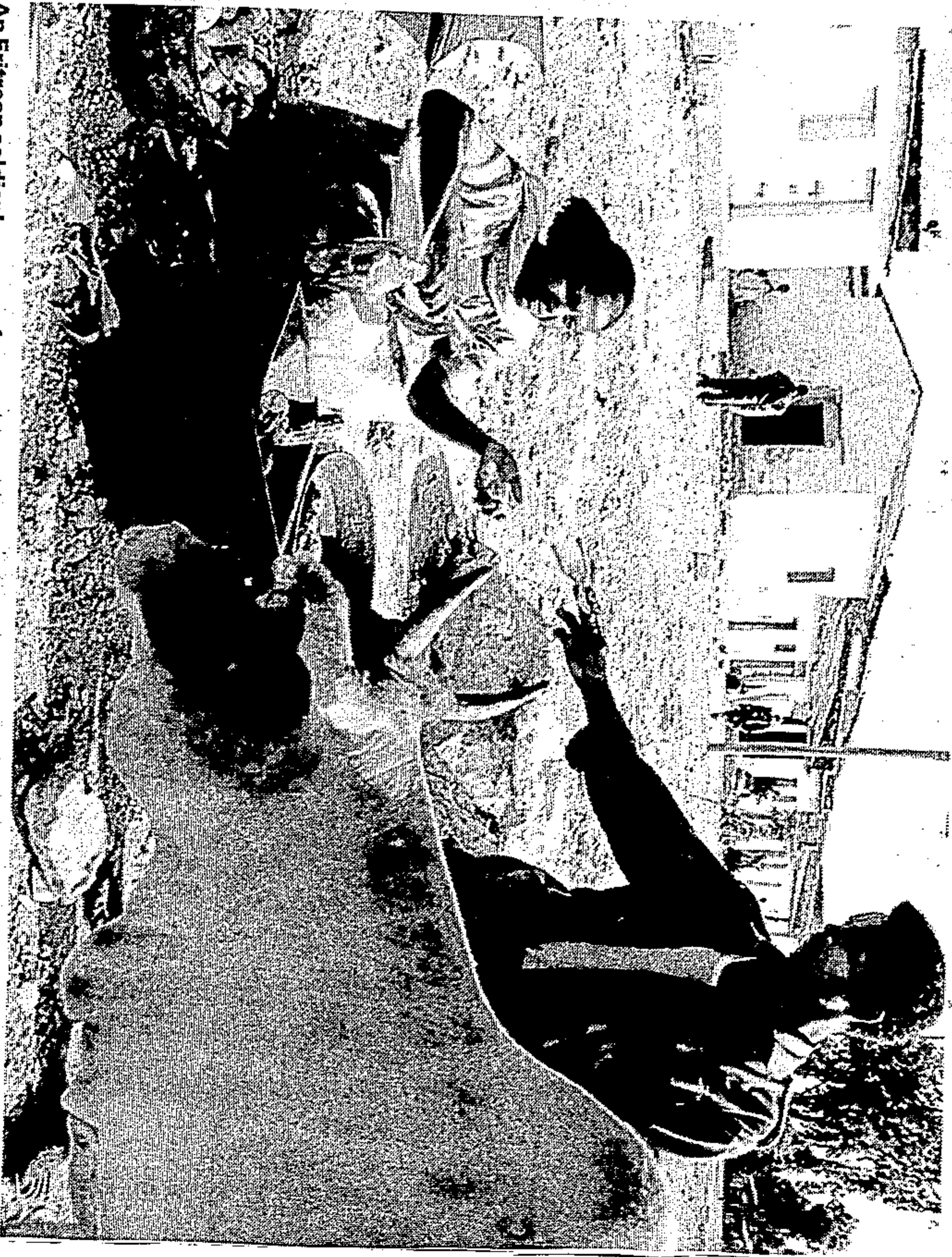
He said all Swapo structures and affiliated organisations and the National Union of Namibian Workers discussed the issue at their various congresses and proposed Nujoma as sole candidate at the Swapo congress last year.

The congress resolved on the basis of the resolutions taken by the party wings and affiliated organisations that Nujoma should be sole party candidate at the presidential and national assembly elections in 1999, he said.

"Democracy is about choice. Our constitution provides that individuals should have the right to stand for election to political office and that our people should have the right to choose their political leaders of their choice.

"Thus, if the overwhelming majority of the Namibian people, as represented by Swapo, have made their choice ... then (Swapo) will honour this decision of the Namibian people."

It is not clear if the opposition will be allowed a right of reply to respond to Pohamba's party political broadcast.



An Eritrean soldier buys corn from a vendor on the main street of the border town of Zalambesa, 100km south of the Eritrean capital Asmara. Residents are braced for more fighting over a border dispute with Ethiopia. Picture: AP

Namibia move 'fault of defence act'

Christof Maletsky (AAI)

WINDHOEK — Prominent human rights lawyer Dave Smuts has blamed Namibia's involvement in the Democratic Republic of Congo war on laws enacted by the former SA regime.

Smuts said there was all likelihood that President Sam Nujoma had made use of the broad powers under the defence act which the former SA regime enacted in 1957.

He explained that shortly after independence the ruling Swapo party had made several amendments to the act but left some parts used by the former colonisers, like the one empowering Nujoma to deploy troops when he held an "opinion".

The act empowered the president to combat, prevent or suppress any attack, threat or aggression directed at Namibia. It also provided for troops to render service whenever needed and such service included military service in times of war against any other state.

What was worrying in the act, Smuts said, was that troops could also become involved when the president believed war in any other state constituted a threat to Namibia.

"Now that is very dangerous, but I am not blaming the president for that."

Smuts said Nujoma did not act unconstitutionally by sending Namibian troops to fight in the Congo, but whether he used his powers properly remained a million-dollar question.

BB 20/10/98

AFRICA

Namibia presented with extra budget

Christof Maletsky

WINDHOEK — Finance Minister Nangolo Mbumba presented an additional budget this week that projects an increase of more than 10% in the national deficit during the current financial year, as opposed to the figure initially estimated in the 1998/99 budget.

Introducing the R344m projection for the current financial year, which ends next March, Mbumba said the deficit would climb by R69m to R745m.

The ratio of the deficit to gross domestic product increases from 3,9% to 4,3%, which he termed "a slight rise".

Mbumba said about R80m of the R745m deficit would be financed by foreign loans, most of which were subject to on-lending arrangements with government corporations. The balance of the deficit would be financed through issuing government bonds.

Mbumba said the government was contemplating a slight reduction in the amount of treasury bills issued to reduce the large exposure in the short-maturity instruments.

However, he said the exact deficit-funding proposal would be subject to discussion with the central bank and local money market players. Of the R344m gross additional expenditure to be voted in for the current financial year, R301,9m goes on specific spending items, and the balance towards servicing the national debt.

A sum of R203m is to be clawed back through the suspension of previously planned expenditure.

Mbumba said he believed the additional spending proposals would

stimulate Namibia's sluggish economy. He singled out increased capital spending, which he said would provide a much-needed impetus to the ailing construction industry.

Mbumba attributed the increase in the government's debt-servicing obligation to the rise in interest rates on government bonds and treasury bills issued on the local finance market.

Of the additional gross allocation of R344m, R144,5m is made available for increases in salaries to officials in the submanagement cadre as agreed during negotiations with trade unions. This increase is to be offset by reducing the salary allocation previously given to the office of the prime minister.

On a positive note, Mbumba said the treasury now expected to collect R72m. Receipts from income tax on individual persons and nonmining companies, general sales tax, fishing quota levies and stamp duties were greater than expected.

Mbumba said that, while his ministry had taken care of the current economic situation, uncertainty prevailed regarding the outlook on revenue collection for the rest of the financial year.

"Although under- and overcollection does occur in all financial years, we feel confident that we will be able to collect the stated amounts and not trigger the possible expansion of the deficit towards the end of the year because of major collections below these estimates," Mbumba said.

Revenue from mining firms' income tax, nonresident shareholders' tax, additional sales levies and diamond royalties was lower than expected.

REST OF AFRICA

Namibia's darkest chapter, says govt

Secessionists' flight to Botswana raises tension

Christof Maletsky
and Sapa

MD 10/11/98

WINDHOEK — Tensions have escalated over demands for the secession of Caprivi Strip from Namibia, with the government terming the flight of the movement's leaders to Botswana as "the darkest chapter" in Namibia's post-independence history.

Home Affairs Minister Jerry Ekandjo said at the weekend Namibia would do its utmost to get Botswana to extradite the "terrorist bandits" so they could be charged with treason.

The saga has complicated Namibia's already difficult relations with Botswana because Botswana has not handed over the secessionists. Yesterday the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) advised the Botswana government that the 108 Caprivi secessionists, who illegally entered Botswana, could be persecuted if extradited to Namibia. "The group is asking for protection against forcible return to Namibia where they claim their lives and freedom would be in jeopardy," a UNHCR report said. A spokesman for Botswana President Festus Mogae said the UNHCR's preliminary finding was that the secessionists' fear of persecution was plausible in the light of attitudes in Namibia towards the Caprivi.

The UNHCR had warned the Namibians fugitives that their continued protection depended on their willingness to abide by the humanitarian character of refugee status; in other words, military attacks and organised political activity against Namibia would be prohibited.

The secessionists crossed into Botswana recently to escape a swoop on their secret military training camp by the Namibian defence force and national intelligence. Those who fled include former Namibian opposition leader Meshake Muyongo, a regional governor of Caprivi; Johnnie Mabuku, a member of the Namibian House of Review; and national coun-

cillor Francis Sizimbo.

Muyongo held a senior position in Swapo before his expulsion in 1980. He then joined the opposition DTA and served as its president for a while.

Nujoma addressed the nation on television at the weekend to say Muyongo had always had dubious alliances based on wild dreams. In 1980, Swapo had found him guilty of planning the secession of the Caprivi Strip and proclamation of a so-called "Republic of Ithenge".

Nujoma said: "This cast him into a political wilderness until a politically desperate DTA ... recruited him and later made him its president. Notwithstanding this fellowship of convenience, Muyongo's doomed dream of dismembering the Caprivi from the rest of Namibia remains alive," Nujoma said.

Nujoma said Muyongo was linked to foreign mercenaries and his "fellow terrorist gangsters in the Southern African Development Community who supplied money, weapons and training facilities". He did not reveal details.

Nujoma said the group who had crossed into Botswana had violated the constitution, broken the law, and armed themselves against the government and the Namibian people. "We will make them pay for this. Secession is the highest crime that citizens can be charged with."

Nujoma rejected as unfounded allegations by Muyongo of human rights violations and political persecution. He would visit Caprivi to reassure the community the laws of the land would protect them.

Muyongo's former party, the umbrella DTA, has distanced itself from his activities and planned a "crisis meeting" to consider expelling his United Democratic Party from its ranks.

Mabuku and Sizimbo, arrested in Botswana last week, were party candidates for forthcoming regional council elections and sources say their arrests will have a devastating effect on the official opposition's electoral performance.

Bourse to set up development sector

WINDHOEK — The Namibian Stock Exchange (NSX) would introduce a development sector on its main trading board as a means to empower the country's citizens, Finance Minister Nangolo Mbumba said yesterday.

Mbumba, who was launching the electronic link between the NSX and neighbouring South Africa's Johannesburg Stock Exchange (JSE),

said the decision to launch the sector was taken by the bourse's executive committee last week.

"This (sector) is designed specifically for companies that do not have the usual three-year trading history on which many investors normally base their investment decisions regarding listings," Mbumba said. — Reuter.

CAPE ARGUS ISSUES

Two steps back for Namibia

Nujoma's ominous bid to cling to power (221)
ARG 27/11/98

Is Namibia beginning to backslide down the slippery slope towards the old Africa?

It is certainly showing signs of relinquishing the New African moral high ground it occupied so triumphantly at independence in 1990.

Like the African National Congress, Swapo shed its old Marxist ideas and took Namibia into independence as an exemplary liberal, constitutional, free-market democracy.

Eight years down the track, though, the old Swapo colours are starting to show through the fading veneer, raising doubts about where the country could be heading.

The first and largest question-mark over Namibian democracy is to doubt Swapo's determination to amend the constitution to allow President Sam Nujoma to stand for a third term - a move which will no doubt succeed.

Swapo seems indifferent to the damage this is doing to the country's image, inevitably invoking the spectre of another president-for-life, the scourge of the continent.

Mr Nujoma's High Commissioner in London, Ben Ulenga, a former guerrilla with impeccable struggle credentials, resigned in protest at this and the other folly - Namibia's venture into the Democratic Republic of Congo conflict.

It is becoming increasingly apparent that the aim of this exercise was not democracy - or the interventionists would by now have pressured President Laurent Kabila to negotiate with the opposition - but simply the classic motive of helping a fellow member of the club of thugs retain his position.

Or, perhaps, the motive was worse, as tales abound of Mr Nujoma's relatives being given diamond concessions in the Congo.

And the strange Caprivi secession saga is the latest symptom that all is not well with Namibian democracy.

Hundreds of residents of the Caprivi Strip - that odd little panhandle in the north-east - have swarmed across the border into Botswana to seek asylum in the past few weeks.

The refugees, mostly of the Lozi ethnic minority, are led by Mishake Muyongo, the deposed leader of Namibia's main opposition party, the Democratic Turnhalle Alliance. He is suspected by Namibia of planning an armed revolt to force the secession of Caprivi.

Secessionist moves by an ethnic minority are another typical

symptom of the old Africa. They are usually blamed on colonial cartographical caprice, of which Caprivi is a classic example.

It was given to the German authorities in Windhoek to provide them with access to the Zambezi River, which they wrongly assumed to be navigable - regardless of the fact that it helped divide the Lozi people among Angola, Namibia, Botswana and Zambia.

Yet, as with the precedents to the north, the map-making has only set the scene for trouble; the actual trouble has been caused, or at least aggravated, by the Swapo government's neglect of Caprivi.

A recent United Nations report ranked the region as Namibia's poorest. This may have something to do with the fact that most Lozi did not support Swapo during Namibia's war of independence.

The Namibian National Society for Human Rights (NSHR), while condemning the secessionists, also warned that this might be the forerunner of other ethnic problems.

It was a "grim preview of the dire consequences of impunity, disrespect for human rights and the rule of law as well as reliance on centralised, highly personalised and winner-takes-all forms of governance and political power prevalent in the country".

The NSHR said there was a widespread perception that the majority Ovambo group was denying positions, development opportunities and services to minorities.

The Caprivi secession has also, incidentally, revealed another undemocratic tendency in the government - contempt for a free press, as two foreign TV crews have been arrested in the territory while trying to report the story.

A Namibian slide from democracy must be bad news for South Africa, as it will tend to alienate the two countries.

The Southern African Development Community is dividing into two camps, with South Africa leading a group of more democratic states and Zimbabwe a second group of less democratic ones.

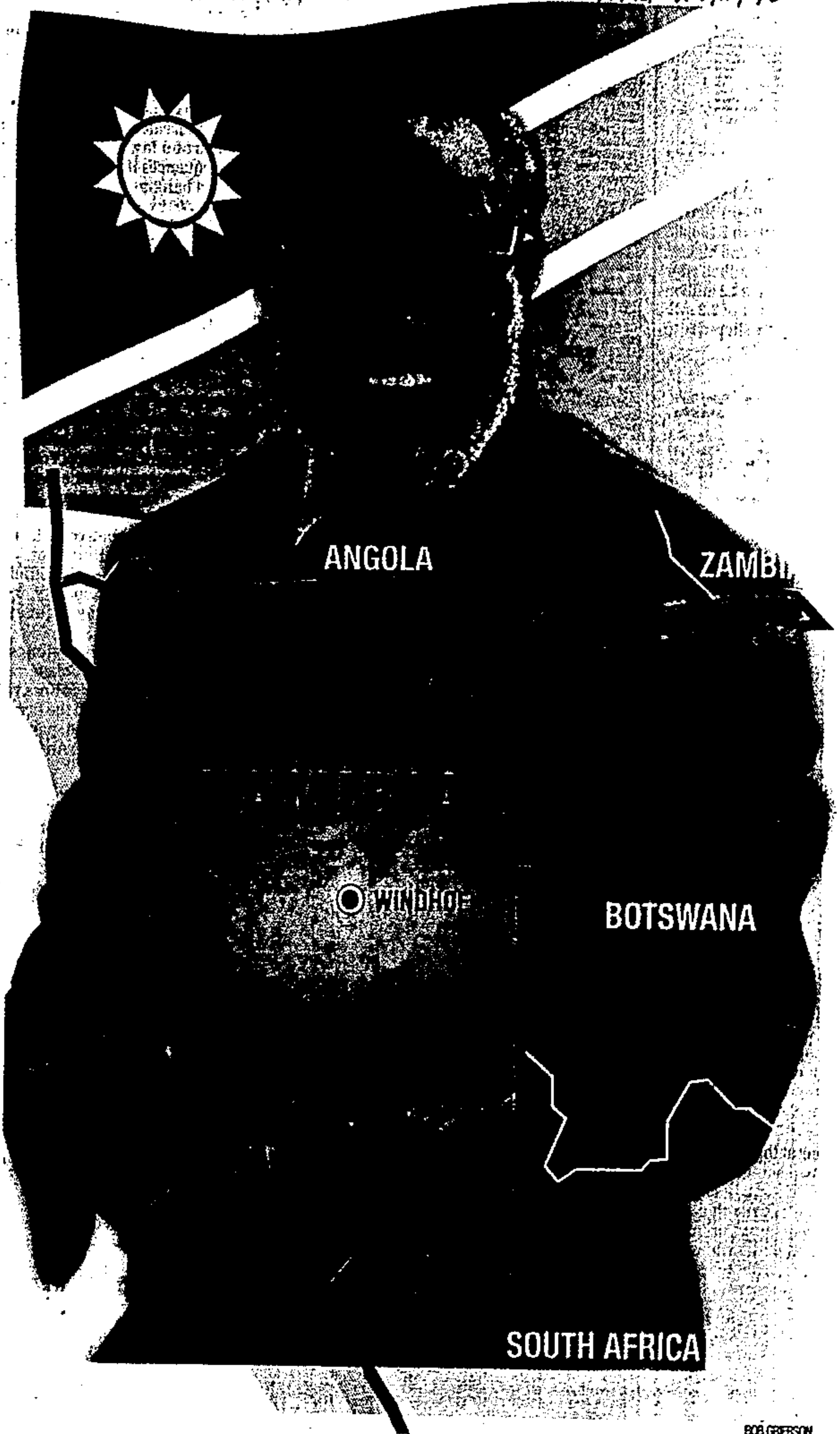
Mr Nujoma's decision to go with Zimbabwe and Angola into the Congo war has distressed the Government, which saw the country as a close ally.

On a more symbolic level, Namibia losing its democratic grip would be demoralising because it, in a sense, lit the path for South Africa's journey to democracy.

AFRICA COLUMN



PETER FABRICIUS



Swapo wins regional poll in Namibia

Christof Maletsky (221)
and Claire Cambridge

THE ruling Swapo party has secured a landslide victory in Namibia's regional polls, but the low turnout of just more than 30% of registered voters has been partially attributed to voter discontent.

Swapo increased its majority to 82 of the 102 constituencies, while the official opposition, the DTA of Namibia, won 16 seats and the United Democratic Front four.

Low turnouts were recorded nationwide, but it was worst in the tense Caprivi region, where only 5% of voters participated in response to the DTA's boycott call.

However, there was also a low turnout in traditional Swapo strongholds like the Oshana, Ohangwena and Oshikoto regions. In the 1992 regional elections the overall turnout was 87%. BD 4/12/98

Political analyst Christian Keulder said voter apathy was a result of discontent, especially among the youth, who preferred to stay away.

The economy has shown little growth this year and climbing unemployment is also thought to have increased voter discontent.

Voter dissatisfaction was perhaps best illustrated by comments voters wrote on some of the ballot papers. The returning officer for Wanaheda constituency in Windhoek, Charlisle Basson, said he had seen ballot papers with messages that voters were "sick and tired of promises".

Others included statements like "we want brick houses", and "empty promises".

Elections director Joram Rukambe said he did not believe the voting results were that bad in comparison with established democracies, which sometimes recorded a 30% turnout at polling stations.

"However, it is lower than we are used to and that is what makes us uneasy," he said.

NAMIBIA - GENERAL
1999

Namibia admits news bar on DRC

ARG 5/1/99 (201)

The Namibian Defence Ministry has admitted deliberately withholding information from the domestic media on the country's involvement in the Democratic Republic of Congo, SABC radio reported today.

SABC said this was confirmed by Prime Minister Hage Geingob in a letter to The Namibian newspaper.

Later, while speaking in Swakopmund, Mr Geingob insisted that Namibia was "fighting for peace" in the region, The Namibian reported.

Mr Geingob said Namibia was concerned about the possibility of

future threats from the rebel Unita movement in neighbouring Angola, strengthened by DRC rebel support.

He also intimated that the ready availability of weapons in Angola and the DRC was fuelling the secessionist movement in Namibia's Caprivi Strip.

Meanwhile, the Namibian Broadcasting Corporation has reported from Windhoek that Namibian President Sam Nujoma was due to interrupt his summer holidays for a meeting with Zimbabwean President Robert Mugabe today.

Mr Mugabe was expected to fly

into Walvis Bay later today, and travel to the remote Skeleton Coast resort of Terrace Bay, where Mr Nujoma is holidaying, the state radio said. Mr Mugabe was expected to return to Harare later today.

Namibian and Zimbabwean troops are backing government forces loyal to President Laurent Kabila against a Tutsi-led rebellion in the DRC.

Fighting is reported to have intensified in recent days, with both countries' troops involved in a big government offensive in the eastern DRC. - Sapa, Sapa-AFP

Namibians object to news blackout

Christof Maletsky

22/11/99
BD 6/1/99

WINDHOEK — Critics have reacted angrily to official confirmation that government has been imposing a news blackout on all activities concerning Namibian troops in the Democratic Republic of Congo.

This follows a letter from Prime Minister Hage Geingob to The Namibian yesterday in which he confirmed that defence ministry staff had been instructed not to release any information to the media for reasons which included the "security of the forces" fighting alongside President Laurent Kabila's troops.

The Media Institute of Southern Africa criticised the government yesterday for its blackout, saying it was in the interests of Namibians to expect official comment on involvement in the Congo. The absence of information also fuelled rumours and disinformation.

National Society for Human Rights executive director Phil ya Nangoloh said his society was contacting fellow human rights and media freedom organisations around the world to rally opposition to the move. "It is a gross violation of media rights and we will protest against it. Such a move will have very bad implications because no one will know about the state of affairs in the Congo."

Geingob said in his letter that the government believed "information about our men in the Congo should not be given if it might compromise the safety and security of our soldiers". Exercising the right to the "free use of information" during a time of war required great awareness of the danger facing soldiers.

The media had used the fact that the defence ministry had not informed parents that their sons were being sent to war as a "propaganda tool", but it was "the soldiers themselves who inform their families about their whereabouts".

The defence ministry had been distressed that "wrong information" was being published about the number of Namibian casualties. Geingob said newspapers had claimed that 12 Namibian lives have been lost, while "only four soldiers have died". Defence sources in Namibia and Zimbabwe maintain that about 15 Namibian soldiers have died in the Congo so far.

DAMAGING BLOW TO OPPOSITION

ET 25/2/99

Obasanjo boosted by defection of key men

(221)

ABUJA: Olusegun Obasanjo's presidential bid received an unexpected boost yesterday when weighty members of the rival camp defected to his side.

A KEY member of the powerful northern political establishment, former senator Olusola Saraki, called on his supporters and followers of his Alliance People's Party (APP) to vote for Obasanjo in Saturday's landmark presidential election.

"It is our decision to support the candidacy of General Olusegun Obasanjo," Saraki said at a news conference. He was flanked by key party leaders, including former foreign minister Tom Ikimi.

The move could deal a damaging blow to the rival bid of Obasanjo's only opponent, former finance minister Olu Falae, who is contesting as joint candidate of the APP and his own party, the Alliance for Democracy (AD).

Newspapers reported that Falae had been forced to cancel a campaign rally in Saraki's hometown of Ilorin in west-central Nigeria because of a massive boycott. He also failed to make scheduled appearances at rallies in the central town of Jos and in Kaduna, a key

political centre in the north.

Falae and Obasanjo, a former military ruler who stepped down voluntarily 20 years ago, are both Yorubas from the south-west.

The presidential vote caps military ruler Abdusalami Abubakar's plan to end 15 years of rule by soldiers in the oil-producing nation of 108 million people.

Obasanjo's PDP, whose backbone of support is in the north, has topped regional and national assembly elections already held.

Northerners, who have dominated civilian and military governments since Nigeria's independence from Britain in 1960, agreed to give the south a chance at the presidency — a gesture intended to defuse regional tensions.

But Saraki, the political supremo in the Middle Belt region straddling the largely Islamic north and the predominantly Christian south, refused to accept the compromise and went to court after an acrimonious APP convention blocked his nomination bid.

The court action failed to stop the choice of Falae as the joint AD/APP candidate.

A nomination of Saraki, a highly influential politician with a large purse, would have changed the political equation by eroding Obasanjo's support among Saraki's fellow Muslims, analysts say.

The former senator said he had been denied "my fundamental right in the party to contest the nomination". He denounced both the AD/APP alliance and what he called the appointment of "a candidate totally unknown to members of the party".

"We therefore call on all our members and supporters nationwide to come out en masse and vote for General Olusegun Obasanjo in the presidential election."

The results of last Saturday's elections for a 360-seat Federal House of Representatives and a 109-member Senate replicated a voting pattern seen in local and regional polls.

Obasanjo's PDP, which won in both houses but failed to clinch two-third majorities, dominated in the north. The AD held sway in its bastions in the Yoruba-speaking south-west. — Reuter

REST OF AFRICA

Namibia cabinet decides to clean up corruption

BD 4/3/99 (2218)
Christof Maletsky

WINDHOEK — The Namibian cabinet has decided to establish an independent corruption unit with a wide reach that includes the executive, parastatals, boards, trusts and welfare organisations.

Information Minister Ben Amathila said yesterday that the cabinet decided to include the private sector, and that provision would be made for extraterritorial jurisdiction.

The cabinet also agreed to implement an affirmative action policy that would benefit historically disadvantaged members of society.

In Namibia corruption is seen as a scourge that raises the cost of goods and services, increases national debt and also leads

to falling standards.

Last year's worldwide Corruption Perceptions Index gave Namibia a score of 5,3 out of 10, indicating that the country is viewed as having a corruption problem, according to international watchdog Transparency International.

This index records the degree of corruption as seen by business people, risk analysts and the general public.

Namibia is 29th "cleanest" country on the index (ranking with Taiwan and Malaysia) and second "cleanest" African nation, beaten by only Botswana (23rd), with a rating of 6,1.

South Africa comes 32nd with 5,2, Zimbabwe is 42nd with 4,2, and Zambia is even further behind at 52nd with 3,5.

Mogae, Nujoma end border dispute

BD 15/3/99

GABORONE — The presidents of Namibia and Botswana have pledged to increase co-operation in trade, tourism and environmental protection and put aside a border and refugee dispute.

At the end of a three-day meeting on Friday, Botswana President Festus Mogae and Namibian President Sam Nujoma also denounced Angolan rebel leader Jonas Savimbi for destabilising the government of their mutual neighbour, Angola.

They repeated past assurances that they would accept the decision of the World Court in The Hague in a case being argued on a dispute over an uninhabited island in a river which forms part of the nations' border.

Tension in the Caprivi region rose earlier this year when Botswana granted political asylum to 15 alleged secessionist rebels from Namibia, including Namibia's former opposition leader Mishake Muyongo. Nujoma said another 2 450 Namibians who fled into Botswana were misled by their leaders and were welcome to return to Namibia with no threat of retribution.

Nujoma said he would run for a third term as president of Namibia. — Sapa-AP.

(12)

(221)

Bid to curb

union chaos

ART 18/3/99

in schools

Stick to rules, says Bengu

Western Cape teachers abusing an agreement which allows them to attend union meetings in school hours face a crackdown.

The national and provincial departments of education are seeking ways to ensure they stick to the rules.

Sibusiso Bengu, Minister of Education, confirmed in the National Assembly yesterday that there were concerns about the rules being violated.

An agreement between education authorities and unions allows employees who are registered union members to take time off for union activities "subject to the academic programme not being interrupted". Activities which are allowed are listed in the agreement.

They include:

- Attending pre-arranged workplace meetings, other than those stemming from industrial action, which cannot be held outside working hours.

- Meeting full-time officials to discuss organisational matters.
- Voting, where this cannot be done outside working hours or is linked to procedural or strike action.

**GIVE
SAWYER**



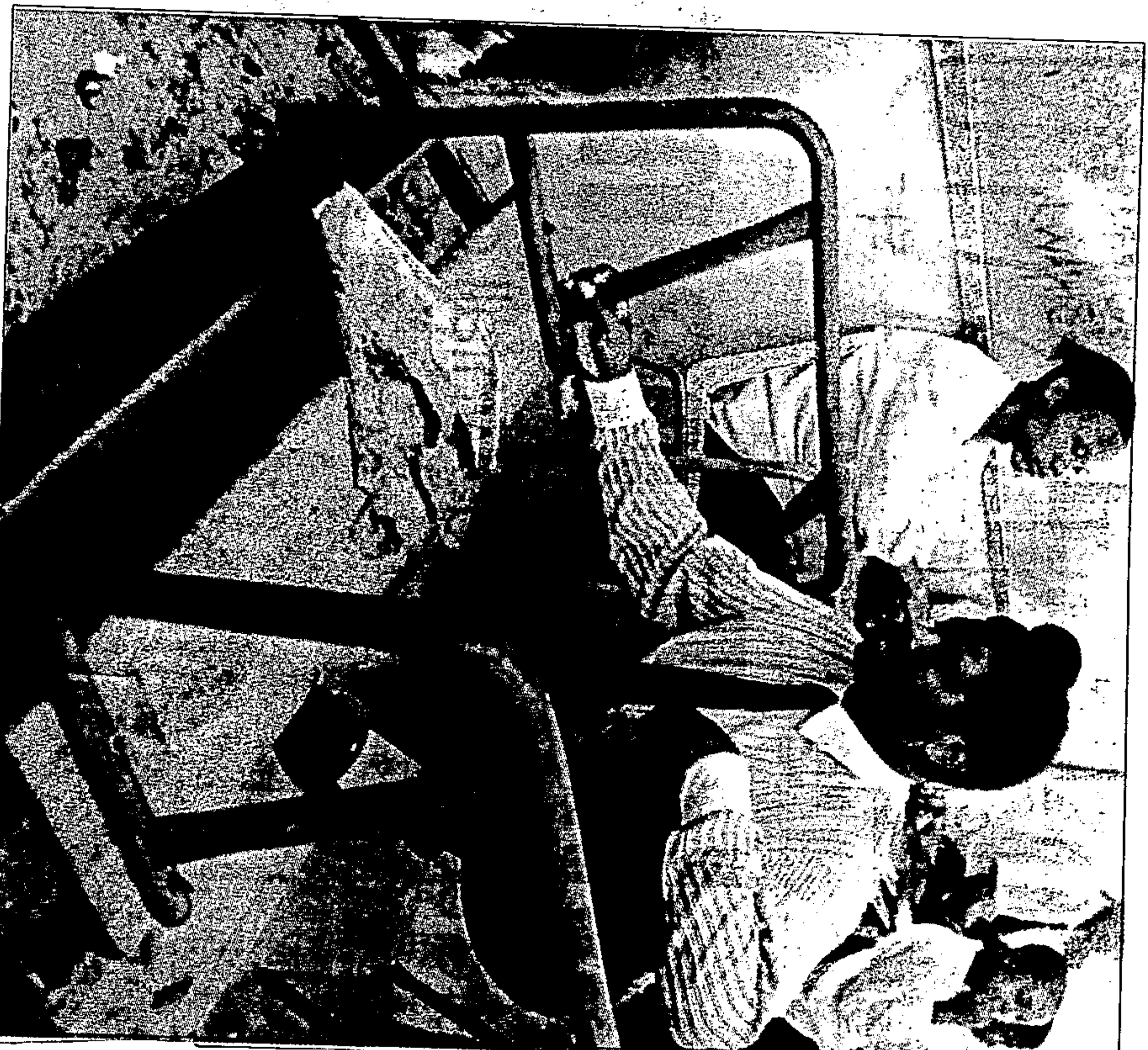
POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

Replying to a question in the Assembly by Mike Ellis of the Democratic Party, Dr Bengu said concerns about violations of these rules included lack of adequate notification to provincial education departments.

Requests were not in keeping with the agreement, the maximum hours for union activities were being exceeded, and the academic programme was being disrupted.

The education department did not intend backing out of the agreement.

"However, the department, together with the provincial education departments, are investigating means to ensure compliance with the agreed-upon provisions," Dr Bengu said.



Failure mark: principal Mongezi Memani of ID Mkhize High School in Gugulethu with furniture vandalised in the classroom

BRENTON GEACH

Sam Nujoma calls on exiles to return home

(221) *Lowetian* 22/3/99

WINDHOEK – Namibian president Sam Nujoma yesterday called on his exiled compatriots in Botswana to return home.

In a speech marking Namibia's ninth anniversary of independence, Nujoma told a crowd of about 10 000 at Windhoek's Independence Stadium that all those "who followed failed and disgruntled politicians to Botswana should come back to their country".

Some 2 400 Namibians have fled to Botswana since October from the troubled Caprivi region.

The exodus followed the uncovering of a fledgling separatist group seeking independence for the Caprivi region and subsequent security sweeps by the army and police.

Botswana granted official refugee status to 15 leaders of the

secessionist group last month, sparking protests from Namibia.

The 15 include the former leader of the official opposition Democratic Turnhalle Alliance Mr Mishake Muyongo.

Nujoma said the vast majority of those who fled Botswana would not face retribution in Namibia. "There will be no reprisals or witch-hunts," he said. "They are Namibians first and then Caprivians."

However, he warned that those who had broken laws in Namibia before they went to Botswana would be brought to justice.

"Those who incited people to work for breaking the Caprivi away from Namibia should remember that Namibia is not divisible and their acts are treason against the state," he said.

Nujoma also referred to nearby wars in Angola and the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC).

He called on Southern African Development Community countries to "get back on track for national and regional development and peace. Only then will we be able to assure a respected place for Africans in the 21st century".

But he gave no indication of when he planned to withdraw Namibia's troop contingent from the DRC, sent to defend president Laurent Kabila's government last August.

Justifying Namibia's involvement in the war, Nujoma said: "We must ensure the DRC's territorial integrity. Only then will peace initiatives have a chance of success." – Sapa-AFP.

Namibia's new political voice (221)

#MHG 26/3-1/4/99

Tangeni Amupadhi

Namibia's political stage was shaken this week by the formation of a new political organisation which threatens to cut into the power base of the ruling party.

Ben Ulenga, respected veteran of the governing South West Africa People's Organisation (Swapo), broke ranks to form the Congress of Democrats and prepare for the general and presidential elections at the end of 1999.

Observers say the new organisation will provide the most serious challenge yet to Swapo's stranglehold on power. Unlike existing opposition parties, Ulenga and his interim leadership are not tainted by collaboration with South Africa's apartheid government.

Ulenga resigned last year as Namibia's high commissioner to Britain in protest over increasing dictatorship in Swapo, which he said was borne out by Namibia's involvement in the Congo war, and the changing of the Constitution which allows President Sam Nujoma to rule for 15 years rather than two five-year terms previously prescribed. Swapo, which commands more than two-thirds in Parliament, changed the Constitution last year.

Said Ulenga at the launch of the Congress of Democrats this week: "We've watched in alarm our sacred law, our Constitution, get re-tailored like a dress, to fit the expanding aspirations of individuals."

Nujoma is accused of increasingly amassing power — by attempting to change the law so that he can appoint regional governors.

Hundreds of aspiring members, observers and political personalities packed the hall of a city hotel to hear what the new party had to offer. However, Ulenga only announced the intention to provide a "political vehicle" out of the "present political disillusionment".

Ulenga, a former Swapo guerrilla, was captured by the South African Defence Force in 1974 after trying to shoot down a helicopter. He was incarcerated at Robben Island until 1985. Upon his release he became a trade union leader.

He said the policies of the party would be defined by members at a congress which would be held in the next few months. Leaders would be elected at the meeting.

Ulenga spoke of events over the past year as "symptoms of a deadly disease that afflicts our nation. By the look of things, self-enrichment and self-aggrandisement have apparently become virtues, while democratic accountability has turned into a vice."

Swapo have put on a brave face saying they have no problem with the formation of the new party. However, the state's spy network has admitted to "monitoring" the main players in the Congress of Democrats.

Air Namibia to retrench 150 staff after R46m losses

(221)
Christof Maletsky

WINDHOEK — Namibia's national airline is to retrench up to 150 staff after its losses of R46,2m, according to a circular released at the weekend.

Air Namibia senior human resources manager Brian Nalisa told employees that the cuts would be implemented as early as April 26, if a major staff restructuring programme, proposed in the view of the airline's continued heavy losses, was approved in its present form.

"The restructuring of the company would unfortunately necessitate some reduction in the number of employees as well as the streamlining of operations, and in some instances even the closure of certain operations and departments," Nalisa said.

The circular said Air Namibia's financial performance had been in decline for some time, and there was a need for immediate improvement. The airline was the biggest contributor to transport parastatal in the financial year to March last year.

TransNamib, consisting of TransNamib Transport, Air Namibia and TransNamib Rail, recorded a net loss of R68,7m in the previous financial year mainly due to the airline's operating loss of R46,2m. The direct loss in 1996/97 was almost R48,6m as a result of a 34% hike in operating costs.

Nalisa said the airline planned to consult workers in an attempt to find an amicable way of trimming staff numbers, either voluntarily or involuntarily. Proposed cost-cutting restructuring would affect management, finance, operations, human resources, and corporate services, and customer services and airport operations staff.

Since its inception in 1990, Air Namibia has only made profits in two financial years — 1991/92 and 1995/96.

Departing TransNamib chairman Willie Klein, in his latest report, attributed Air Namibia's poor performance to previous strategic decisions, management changes, stiff international competition, and the apparent failure to focus on business while restructuring.

Namfish stages major turnaround

(221) BD 31/3/99

Tim Cohen

CAPE TOWN — Namibian Fishing Industries has staged a substantial turnaround, with its net attributable profit increasing to R32m for the 1998 financial year from a loss of R11m.

MD Francois Kuttel said yesterday that a collection of factors that conspired against Namfish in 1996 and 1997 had returned to normality. These factors included catches which had improved, demand which increased and the rand value which appreciated.

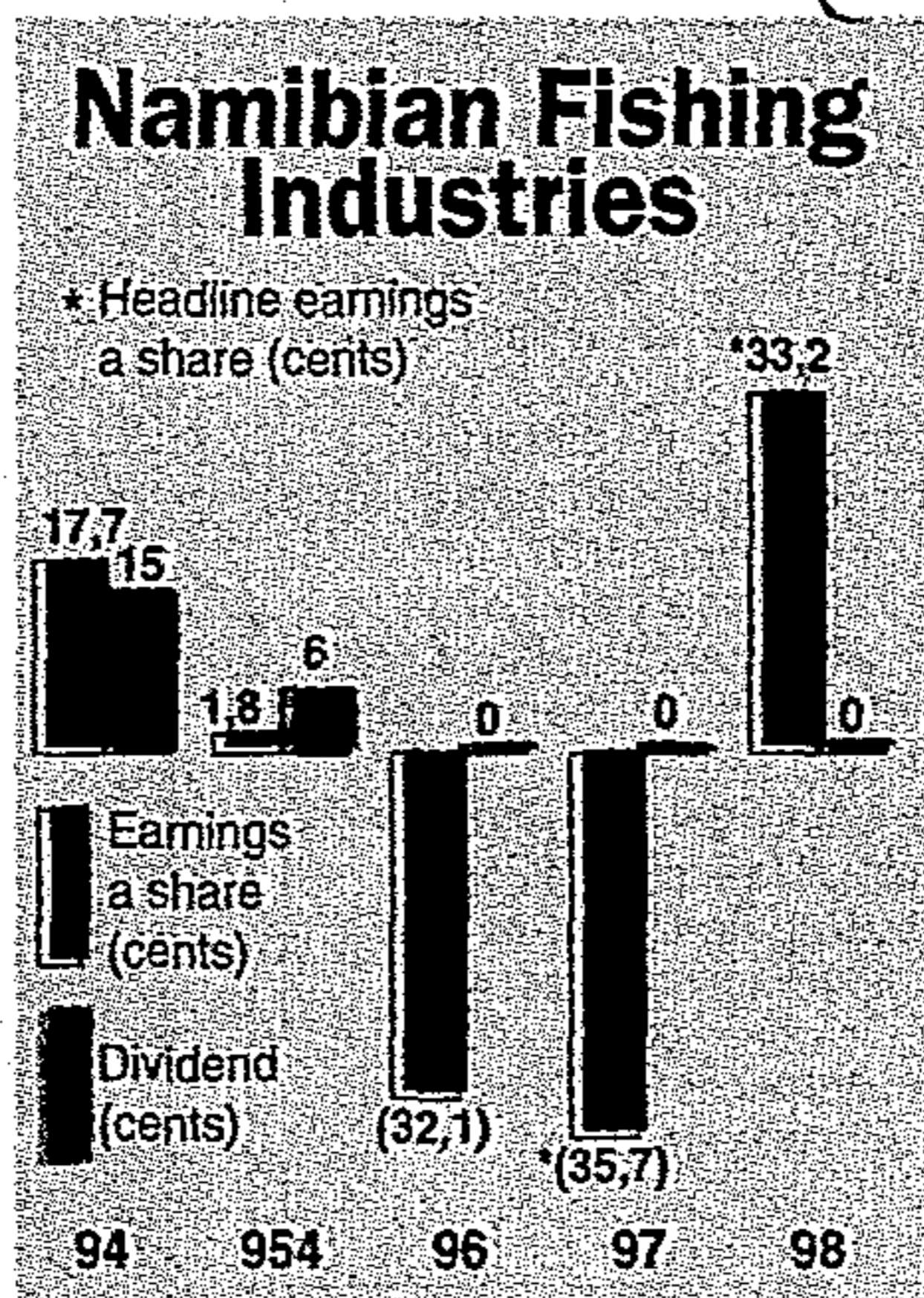
The company improved operational performance and focus on areas of higher profitability, resulting in a turnaround of headline earnings a share of 33,2c compared with a loss of 35,7c in the 1997 financial year, which coincides with the calendar year.

Earnings a share were much higher at 96,7c, compared with a loss of 34,2c in 1997 as a result of the sale of the discontinuation of pelagic fishing operations at the beginning of last year.

Despite the turnaround, the company has said that it will not issue a dividend in order to reduce borrowings further.

Kuttel said prices on export markets had been firm because of a worldwide shortage of white fish, now almost totally Namfish's focus.

There were also significant improvements in the level of fish stocks on the Namibian coast, and this



KUBEN DAVID Source: NAMIBIAN FISHING INDUSTRIES

had resulted in a significant reduction of costs in terms of landed tons.

The Namibian government had adopted a strict approach to fish stocks since it came into power in 1991, reducing the total allowable catch from the roughly 400 000 tons a year.

This conservative approach was now paying off, with restocking now improved, which enabled the Namibian government to relax its limits slightly and increase the total allowable fishing catch from 165 000 tons last year to 210 000 tons this year.

Of this total, Namfish was responsible for a catch last year of 7 000 tons, a substantial increase on the 4 000 tons it managed in 1997, when the coast experienced

the constricting results of a so-called "Benguela El Niño", which reduced catches.

Kuttel said that the company intended to merge its white fish operations with that of the Cato group, a private company that — unlike Namfish — processed much of its catch offshore on its ships.

This deal would be structured as a takeover of Cato in exchange for shares, which would substantially increase the Namibian shareholding of the company.

This development would go some way to satisfying the Namibian fishing authorities who had expressed a preference for issuing licences to Namibian enterprises.

Swapo holdings 'near collapse'

(221)
TABBY MEYO

CT(BR) 31/3/99 INDEPENDENT FOREIGN SERVICE
Windhoek — Companies owned by Namibia's ruling Swapo party under the umbrella name of Kalahari Holdings are indebted by at least R32 million, The Namibian, a daily newspaper, said yesterday.

President Sam Nujoma told the party leadership at last weekend's central committee meeting that Kalahari Holdings was near collapse. He called for drastic measures to "avoid further accumulation of debt".

"The only viable option to rescue the company," he said, "is by disposing of some of its interests in subsidiaries that are relatively profitable or to seek assistance from sister companies."

Rescue measures to be considered will include selling De Rust, a farm near the northern town of Grootfontein; selling some of Kalahari Holdings' shares in Multichoice, M-Net's cable service provider in Namibia; and borrowing more money from financial institutions.

The measures include a mechanism allowing the committee to be involved directly in the company's affairs, thus protecting the interest of the party.

Nujoma reacts to formation of new opposition party

(221) Star 1/4/99
By **TABBY MOYO**
Star Foreign Service

Windhoek - President Sam Nujoma has acknowledged "euphoria" among Namibia's young people for the new Congress of Democrats opposition party formed last week.

In a confidential report, he accused "breakaway" Swapo member Ben Ulenga of orchestrating "rebellious activities" against the ruling party, *The Namibian* newspaper reported yesterday.

The report, presented to the Swapo central committee meeting at the weekend, was Nujoma's first public reaction to the formation of the new party.

According to the report, the new opposition party had held many meetings under the guise of the Forum for the Future. The report also described

the opposition party as a "gathering of frustrated members of Swapo and a little bit of Swanu (South West Africa National Union) members".

"It also includes persons in charge of strategic positions in the government and the commanding heights of the national economy ... there is euphoria among the youth in favour of the Congress of Democrats."

Nujoma said the new party had the support of "liberals", whom he described as "the pillars" in the party. He called for an acceleration in registering and providing jobs to former freedom fighters in order to neutralise the activities of the Congress of Democrats.

It is also suggested in the report presented at the central committee meeting that Swapo should put its propaganda machine into action in order to counter the threat posed by the new party.

Youth 'euphoric' over party

BD 1/4/99 (221)

Christof Maletsky

WINDHOEK — President Sam Nujoma has accused breakaway South West African People's Organisation (Swapo) member Ben Ulenga of orchestrating rebellious activities against the ruling party.

In a secret report discussed by Swapo's central committee recently, Nujoma also said there was euphoria among Namibia's young people about the new party in which Ulenga was involved — the Congress of Democrats. It was launched last week.

Nujoma's report claimed the new party had held many meetings under the guise of the Forum for the Future — a platform debating bread-and-butter issues in the country. It stated that the Congress of Democrats was formed between March 13 and 14 at a meeting at Outjo.

The report described the party as a "gathering of frustrated members of Swapo by one or the other

and a little bit of Swanu (South West Africa National Union) members". It also said the new party included people in charge of strategic positions in government and the economy.

The report categorises the leadership of the Congress of Democrats as people with a "special hatred" towards Swapo. Several central committee members at the meeting called for removal of the top government officials perceived to be sympathetic to the new party.

Nujoma's report also accused the Congress of Democrats of promising jobs to people, particularly ex-combatants. It said registering and providing jobs to former freedom fighters needed to be speeded up to "neutralise" their activities.

The report stated the Congress of Democrats was putting crucial issues on the agenda, and suggested Swapo should activate its propaganda machine to counter the threat the new party posed.

Namibia to declare Aids 'notifiable'

WINDHOEK: The Namibian government is to introduce a policy aimed at destigmatising HIV/Aids and laws declaring it a "notifiable" disease.

CT 23/4/99 Making Aids a notifiable disease compels doctors to tell their patients' close relatives and others close to them about a patient's HIV status.

Health Minister Libertina Amathila said the decision to introduce the policy was taken last week by Southern African Development Community health ministers who resolved that HIV/Aids be treated as a public health epidemic.

Relatives and partners would be given counselling to support rather than shun the patient.

Only by destigmatising the disease could an onslaught against HIV succeed, she said. More than 150 000 of the country's 1,7 million people have the virus.

(221)

Namibian govt backs down on abortion law

BD 30/4/99
Christof Maletsky

WINDHOEK — The Namibian government has backed down on a proposed liberal abortion law due to popular resistance, but proponents of a woman's right to choose have challenged Health Minister Dr Libertina Amathila to substantiate her claim that 99% of Namibians do not want the law.

Amathila said moves to introduce new legislation giving women the choice to terminate pregnancies, under certain conditions, have been dropped because "Namibians don't want abortion".

"I can't introduce the bill in the face of public opposition," she said. Wide-ranging consultations with churches, radio phone-ins and letters had indicated that 99% of Namibians did not want the law on abortion liberalised.

"Do you want me to introduce the bill despite the negative reaction from the community? What was the reason of sending it out to the community then? I'm stuck. Once we have consulted we are supposed to follow the feeling of the people. If 99% say no, who am I to impose it on the community?"

Pro-choice Alliance, however, said government had no way of justifying its decision on the basis of consultations with the churches and radio phone-ins while national consultations had only taken place in Windhoek and at Otjiwarongo.

"The health ministry should have at least commissioned an opinion poll by an independent and reputable organisation to establish popular opinion about this bill. This could have been through research on medical and social consequences of illegal abortion together with an extensive education

campaign on women's reproductive health and rights. In particular, the opinion of women should have been asked for."

The group said its extensive experience in reproductive health matters and wide consultations with people at all levels of society showed that the majority of women and many men fully supported a liberal abortion law.

"Presently, many desperate women are resorting to unsafe abortions, which often have grave health risks."

Pro-Choice Alliance said the government's decision shows its unwillingness to address the social needs of disadvantaged women whose lives are at risk, for the sake of political expediency.

Caprivi separatists who entered Botswana (221) accepted by Denmark

Christof Maletsky

BD 6/5/99

WINDHOEK — Denmark has granted residence rights to the leaders of about 2 400 Namibian secessionists from the Caprivi Strip who have crossed into Botswana since last October.

The United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees confirmed that former opposition leader Mishake Muyongo and former Mafwe chief Boniface Mamili left Botswana for Denmark on Monday after being granted residence rights by the Scandinavian country.

The UN agency said Denmark had agreed to take the two men while another 13 exiled Namibians were awaiting confirmation on which countries would accept them.

Muyongo and Mamili led a group of Namibians to Botswana after a fledgling separatist movement was uncovered in the Caprivi.

In the following months more than 2 400 Caprivians crossed into Botswana — some of them supporters of Muyongo's separatist ambitions; many others were fleeing security sweeps by the Namibian defence force, the Special Field Force and the police.

Mengesha Kebede, the UN refugee agency's deputy regional representative, said the resettled group — which flew to Denmark via Frankfurt — included the de-throned Mafwe chief's wife, a daughter and one cousin.

A family member who was still at Dukwe would join them later.

Mamili's relative, who is yet to be repatriated, has already been interviewed by Danish officials and his application has been processed.

Muyongo has also indicated that he would like to be joined by some of his family members.

Botswana agreed to resettle them in a third country after a storm of protest from Namibia over their initial acceptance of the Caprivians.

Namibia said the men should have been repatriated to face criminal investigations and possible charges of murder and high treason.

Kebede said they would visit Dukwe with the intent of repatriating those people who would like to go back to Namibia.

Countries approached for possible resettlement are the US, Canada, Sweden and Norway. Kebede said all countries dealing with refugees are focusing on those fleeing Kosovo. This would result in a delay.

Jail Aids toll rises

Windhoek - More than half the prisons deaths recorded in Namibia were caused by HIV/Aids, the Prisons and Correctional Services Ministry reported.

In its annual report presented to parliament, the ministry said the prison death rate had increased two-fold, mostly due to Aids.

Of the 23 prisoners who died of various illnesses last year, 12 were Aids-related, including tuberculosis and lung illnesses.

At the beginning of last year, there were 80 HIV/Aids patients in the 13 Namibian prisons and the number increased to 95 by the end of the year.

However, 148 new cases were diagnosed in 1998, seven prisoners released on recommendations of doctors and 116 released on completion of their sentences.

In comparison with 1997, the number of new diagnosed prisoners with HIV/Aids thus increased three times while deaths increased two-fold.

"The activities in prisons that spread HIV, notably sex and drug abuse, are widely considered as criminal within the prison environment. When these are usually met with disciplinary measures, not health measures," Deputy Minister of Prisons and Correctional Services, Michaela Hubschle, said.

She attributed the spread of HIV/Aids in prisons to overcrowding and the difficulties in maintaining an acceptable standard of hygiene under these conditions.

Prisoners serving their sentences should not be condemned to infection with HIV-Aids and their needs had to be addressed in a non-discriminatory and comprehensive manner, she added.

The report went on to say that the number of persons serving jail sentences had decreased from 7 460 in 1997 to 6 261 in 1998.

Star Foreign Service

Namibia's child labour report gathers dust (221)

Christof Maletsky

WINDHOEK — A report that says child labour is rife in Namibia and of national concern has been collecting dust in President Sam Nujoma's office while more than 5 600 children under the age of 15 continue to earn as little as N\$10 a month on Namibian farms.

The report, by a commission of inquiry into labour-related matters affecting agricultural and domestic employees, says child labour in Namibia should be treated as a

matter of national concern, and government should convene a national conference to discuss the issue. The unreleased report says that although there is little reliable information on child labour in the country it is prevalent on both commercial and communal farms.

The report recommends that government exempt the children of farm workers from paying school fees, or else help their parents by subsidising these fees.

It also suggests barring children of schoolgoing age from full-time

employment and passing a law that will compel children to attend school.

Namibia's last census stated that in 1991 more than 5 600 children under 15 years of age were working on farms, mostly as part of the unregulated workforce on Namibian farms.

Several submissions to the commission indicated that the situation was worse in the northern communal areas where most children employed on farms came from Angola and Zambia.

DD 25/5/99

Licensing system opened up to attract shy exploration bidders

Namibia unwinds oil red tape

(221) CT(02) 1/7/99

TABBY MOYO

Windhoek – Namibia has relaxed the process of granting oil exploration licences off its coast in an attempt to attract oil prospectors who had lost interest in seeking the country's oil riches because of a drop in the global oil price.

The mines and energy ministry announced on Tuesday that it would immediately adopt an open licensing system for exploration.

Until March the government had enforced a closed-round system through which bids were invited from companies for a specific period. The licensing

rounds took a lengthy three years to process each bid.

Joe Mazeingo, the managing director of the National Petroleum Corporation of Namibia (Namcor), said although numerous inquiries were received during the last licensing round, no company had submitted a formal bid.

"We have decided to loosen the system and enter into agreements with individual companies as they come."

Applications for exploration li-

cences would now be accepted at any time, although procedures prescribed in the licensing round

which closed in March would still be followed.

The move to adopt an open licensing system was an interim measure that did not preclude the possibility of reverting to the closed system.

South Africa had adopted a similar system, Mazeingo said.

He attributed the poor

response in the last round to the downturn in the world economy and the dramatic fall in the oil price from last September to February, when oil companies reduced their exploration budgets.

For instance, Shell had cut its exploration budget to R5,7 billion from R8 billion last year. Mazeingo said oil companies applying for prospecting licences in Namibia would still be compelled to follow the rules laid down by the mines and energy ministry. They would also still have to convince the government they had sufficient funds and capabilities to sustain the exploration exercise. – Independent Foreign Service

Namcor decided to enter into agreements with individual companies as they come

Apartheid crimes in Namibia under spotlight

Windhoek awaits truth commission report and news of rightwinger's fate, writes Christof Maletsky

WINDHOEK — A delegation from SA's truth commission visited Windhoek recently to investigate crimes carried out against Namibians by SA's former apartheid regime.

Albert Kawana, permanent secretary in the justice ministry, said Namibia was waiting for the final report "to see what we can do. If there is a prima facie case we will certainly take action."

He did not give further details, saying it was a policy matter on which only Justice Minister Ngarikutuke Tjitrangwe or Attorney-General Vekuli Rukoro could comment. Neither were available.

The truth commission made several findings in its report last year on crimes committed by the former SA military

forces that resulted in the death of many Namibians.

The incidents under investigation include the murder of South West Africa People's Organisation activist Anton Lubowski and the 1978 Cassinga massacre in Angola in which an estimated 600 people were killed.

An SA investigating team led by Torie Pretorius has recently uncovered new information on the Lubowski murder and arrests have been reported to be imminent.

Meanwhile, Kawana said the Namibian government continued to wait for official word from SA about the fate of murder suspect Leonard Veenendal. Veenendal is wanted in Namibia in

connection with a grenade attack on the United Nations office at Outjo in 1989 in which one person was killed. He later escaped from custody along with two accomplices and killed a policeman in the process.

Reports in SA indicated Veenendal, who had been based in Newcastle in Kwazulu-Natal, recently fled to the UK.

"We haven't heard anything through official channels," Kawana said.

He said the Namibian government had made several attempts to have Veenendal and fellow rightwingers Daryll Stopforth and Austrian Horst Klenz tried in Namibia for the 1989 attack.

The trio, known as the Outjo 3, face charges of murder, theft of a vehicle and

possession of a machine gun and explosives in Windhoek.

The Namibian government applied for the extradition of Stopforth and Veenendal on June 16 1990.

The charges arise from an attack on the United Nations offices at Outjo on August 10 1989 — an attempt to disrupt the implementation of UN Resolution 435 in Namibia.

They were arrested but subsequently escaped to SA, where no charges were initially pursued against them.

Klenz is currently imprisoned on other charges in SA. Veenendal and Stopforth are appealing against a decision to extradite them to Namibia.

Namibia govt pays for soldiers' deaths

17/6/99 (221)
Christof Maletsky

WINDHOEK — The Namibian government has paid out R3,7m so far to relatives of Namibian soldiers who have died in the course of duty in the Democratic Republic of Congo.

The defence ministry has made 15 tax-free payments of R250 000 each to relatives from already strained public coffers. The decision to pay compensation for each soldier killed indirectly or in direct combat in Congo was endorsed by the cabinet on February 9.

The cabinet also agreed that compensation of up to R187 500,

or 75% of R250 000, would be paid out in cases of "permanent disability" sustained by Namibian soldiers deployed in Congo.

The amount paid out for permanent disability will depend on the extent of the injuries. Assessments will be conducted by a medical board from the health and social services ministry.

Defence permanent secretary Erastus Negonga confirmed 15 tax-free payments of R250 000 were paid last month from the defence ministry's budget. Seventy beneficiaries will share the compensation payments for the 15 dead soldiers, Negonga said.

A trust fund has been set up

at First National Bank in Windhoek to cater for minors listed as beneficiaries. This is in line with recommendations agreed with relatives after meetings with defence officials.

Negonga said R250 000 would be paid regardless of the rank of the dead soldier. The present rate paid to beneficiaries of those killed in UN peacekeeping operations was about R310 000.

Democratic Turnhalle Alliance shadow finance minister Johan de Waal said: "As far as the payment is concerned we think that is correct ... However, we must stress the cost of the war in the Congo will escalate

and we reaffirm our stated policy that this cost must be carried by Southern African Development Community (SADC) member countries because we have been told over and over by government this is a SADC project."

In the budget announced in April defence ministry spending rose 26% to R559m this year. The government said it might use its contingency fund to cover the war costs.

So far 19 soldiers of the Namibian Defence Force have died while on duty in Congo. Causes of death have included combat, malaria, drowning and a vehicle accident.

Nujoma offers Africans a new life in Namibia (221)

TABBY MOYO
FOREIGN SERVICE

9 AUG 17/7/99

Windhoek - Namibian President Sam Nujoma has offered Africans across the continent and overseas the chance to settle in his country as a gesture of pan-Africanist solidarity.

Namibian Broadcasting Corporation (NBC) radio news reported this week that Mr Nujoma made the offer of temporary or permanent residence at the signing of the Democratic Republic of Congo ceasefire in Lusaka, Zambia, on Saturday.

It reported that Mr Nujoma extended his offer to Africans living in the United States and Europe, saying Namibia was ready to share its "vast tracts" of land with them.

The president told Southern African Development Community leaders gathered for the ceasefire signing that OAU member states should offer to resettle citizens of Rwanda and Burundi to help overcome overpopulation problems in the two countries.

He said his offer should be seen in the context of the Abuja Treaty to establish an economic community for Africa. Mr Nujoma cautioned that before resettlement could be implemented, certain infrastructure and criteria had to be put in place, the national broadcaster said.

The NBC's correspondent at the OAU summit in Algeria reported that Mr Nujoma's offer had been hailed as "noble and historic".

AWB tries to incite Namibia's white farmers

TABBY MOYO

(221)

INDEPENDENT FOREIGN SERVICE

CT 19/7/99

WINDHOEK: The Namibian government has received information that the right-wing Afrikaner Weerstandsbeweging (AWB) is trying to incite white Namibian farmers in the commercial farming areas of Hardap and Karas to violently oppose the land redistribution exercise.

Information and Broadcasting Minister Ben Amathila said the AWB had been circulating a letter aimed at inciting white Namibian farmers to resort to violence in opposition to the government's policy on land redistribution.

However, the executive director of the Namibia Agricultural Union (NAU), Gert Grobler, said his union had nothing to do with the AWB letter. Grobler said the NAU had its own policy on land redistribution which was well known and based on the "willing seller, willing buyer" principle, and it worked closely with the government on these issues.

AWB denies plotting war in Namibia

(221) PD 20/7/78
WINDHOEK — Eugene Terreblanche, leader of the Afrikaner Weerstandsbeweging (AWB), yesterday denied that his organisation had written a letter aimed at inciting white Namibian farmers to violence over proposed land reform.

In remarks reported yesterday, President Sam Nujoma warned the organisation that it would face serious "consequences" if it threatened peace in Namibia.

Nujoma's government says that the AWB is circulating a letter urging Namibia's white farmers, the majority of whom are of Afrikaner extraction, to violently resist any land redistribution effort.

The letter, released by Namibia's Ministry of Information, urges farmers to contact the AWB in SA for the "organisation and planning" of resistance to a government "war against land ownership by white Namibians".

Namibia's official opposition claims the letter has been forged to create a diversion ahead of general elections due later this year. — Sapa-AFP.

Human rights slipping in Namibia with ethnic discrimination and intolerance

TABBY MOYO

Windhoek – Ethnic discrimination and intolerance towards dissenting views have been singled out by the Namibian National Society for Human Rights as contributing to a deterioration in the civil and political rights situation in Namibia.

In its Human Rights Report 1998 released on Tuesday, executive director Phil ya Nangoloh ponders diverse rights issues ranging from attacks on The Namibian newspaper to issues involving alleged police harassment.

“Political temperatures reached new heights and assumed even more dangerous proportions following an alleged armed seces-

sionist movement in the troubled Caprivi Region,” says Ya Nangoloh.

Gay people encountered widespread discrimination, including name-calling by high ranking government officials, he said, noting that President Sam Nujoma and two cabinet members “led the gay-bashing crusade”.

The police are accused of shooting four peo-

ple and the Namibian Defence Force of killing civilians in the Democratic Republic of Congo.

The Namibia Central Intelligence Service spied on and shadowed the leaders of the new political party, the Congress of Democrats, as well as human rights activists. – Independent Foreign Service

(221) PRG 24/7/99

FIGHTING RAGES IN CAPRIVA

20 feared dead as Namibian security forces battle secessionists in capital

INDEPENDENT PRESS SERVICE

Windhoek - As many as 20 people are feared dead as fighting rages between Namibian forces and secessionists in Katima Mulilo, capital of the north-eastern Caprivi region of Namibia.

Eye-witnesses said bodies were scattered in the streets. So far nine deaths have been officially confirmed, but one witness said he counted 20 bodies. State radio said secessionists, allegedly with assistance from Unita, had captured the regional office of the Namibian Broadcasting Corporation. A battle for the multi-airstrip of Mpaeta was reportedly still raging at 11am today.

But later air traffic controllers told the IFS the airstrip had been secured, despite the situation being tense, and that they were not turning away flights. Business in the town has ground to a halt and schools have been closed.

Hundreds of people were trapped in buildings as street battles continued in the streets of Katima Mulilo.

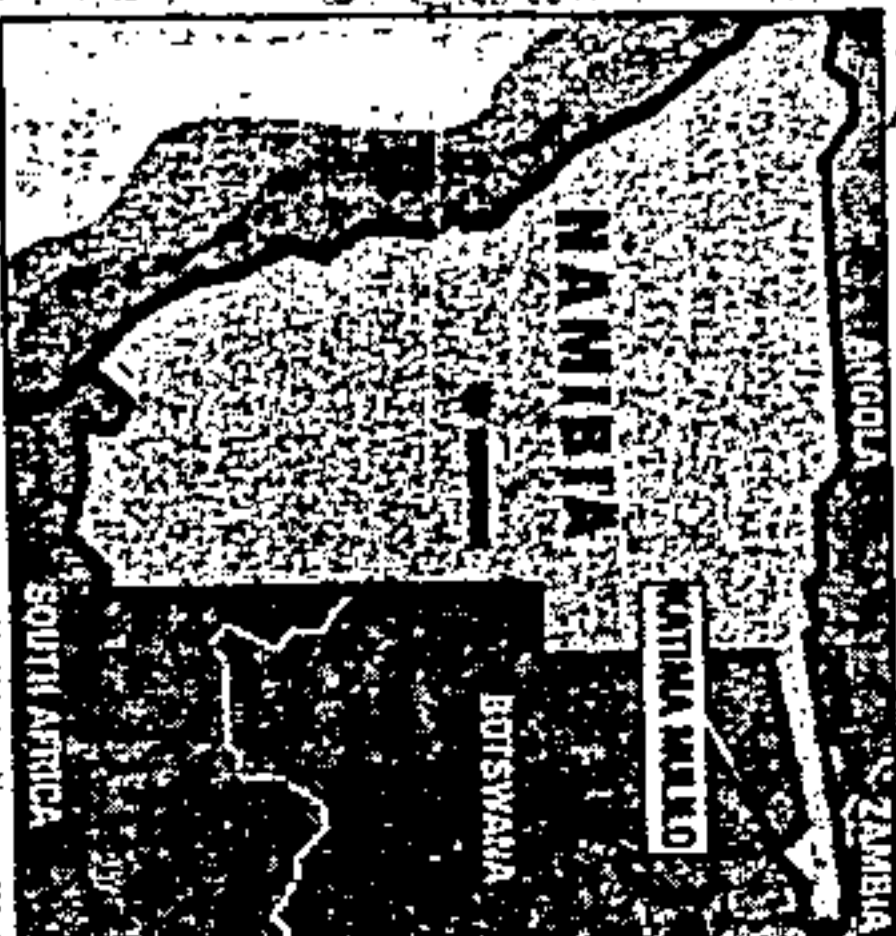
Six Namibian security forces personnel - three defence force and three police - and three secessionists were reportedly killed.

Defence chief Martin Shall said eight secessionists had been captured. Fighting broke out at 3am after rebels had seized the local studio of the Namibian Broadcasting Corporation yesterday and Namibian soldiers surrounded them.

Diplomats said Unita may be involved in the fighting, but cautioned it was not yet clear what had happened and that fighting may also have been caused by internal disputes among secessionists.

The manager of the Zambezi Lodge on the edge of town, Peter Vlasagie, said he could hear automatic gunfire, but that this had been slowly fading and died down by 11.30am. He heard no heavy explosions. He said it appeared the attackers had

(and) ARG 2/8/99



tried to take over the bank and the radio station. Local speculation was that the attack was launched by Caprivi secessionists as a show of strength, but that they were not well enough armed to capture the town.

The main fighting was concentrated in the central shopping area, which is about one square block.

There were indications that the military knew something was going to happen beforehand, Mr Vlasagie said.

According to Adrian Smuts, an officer at the SA embassy in Windhoek, fighting started at 3am. The NBC in Katima Mulilo is off the air, and does not answer its phone. Information is coming from a privately owned Christian radio station taking phone calls from residents in the area.

Last year more than 2,500 armed Caprivians fled the country, under the leadership of former opposition leader Mishako Mnyongo, to seek refuge in Botswana after Namibian authorities allegedly unearthed a secessionist plot.

Mnyongo and Matwe Chief Boniface Mamill have since been granted political asylum in Denmark.

SOLDIERS SEARCH KATIMA MULLILO

Army routs Caprivi rebels

(221) 3/18/199

WINDHOEK: A curfew has been imposed in Katima Mulilo, where suspected secessionists tried to take over key buildings. An unknown number of people died.

SUSPECTED secessionists who stormed key buildings in Katima Mulilo in the Caprivi region in north-east Namibia were routed by government forces yesterday.

The fighters attacked the army base, police stations and other government facilities and occupied the Namibian Broadcasting Corporation (NBC) building on Sunday night.

By yesterday afternoon the government had regained control and security forces were flushing out rebels, Mlikha Ashio, spokesman for the Home Affairs Ministry, said. Civilians had been asked to stay at home until the all-clear was given.

Hieronymus Goraseb, speaking on NBC radio, said the rebels had been repulsed from the army base and police station. A number of people died in the hostilities, but the toll has yet to be established. There were unconfirmed reports of bodies lying in the streets and that a number of primary school children were wounded in the crossfire. Ashio said 11 more people had been arrested, but it was not clear how many were being held. It was also not clear who was behind the rebellion, but it was believed that former Namibian MP Moshoke Muyongo, leader of the United Democratic Front, might be a leading figure. It was thought the rebels were



AWAITING DETAILS: Namibia's President Sam Nujoma

fighting for Caprivi's secession from Namibia, but it was not clear whether they were among the secessionists who had returned to the country after going into exile in neighbouring Botswana. Earlier, the Namibian Defence Force bombarded the NBC building with mortars to flush out the rebels who had occupied it since about midnight, NBC correspondents said.

dent Moses Kandloze said in a radio broadcast. It was unclear if any rebels were alive in the building, which had been badly damaged by the shelling. State radio said earlier that nine people, six of them members of the security forces, had died.

Namibian President Sam Nujoma, who returned to Windhoek from Mauritius yesterday, told NBC he would comment when he had been fully briefed. Goraseb said the town would be under curfew from 4pm yesterday to 8am today. He said it seemed most of the rebels had left the town. Gunfire, which could be heard from the town centre earlier, had moved to the northern outskirts towards the Zambian border, which had been closed.

The Namibian Defence Force was verifying details and could not comment, a spokesperson said. — Sapa-AFP

Gunfire erupts again as Caprivi sealed off

(221) AR 3/18/199

Worried SA families stranded in Katima Mulilo

FOREIGN SERVICE

Windhoek — Renewed gunfire was heard this morning near the Caprivi town of Katima Mulilo where secessionist rebels captured key installations in fierce fighting yesterday before being driven from the town.

Residents in Katima Mulilo described the town as extremely tense today with renewed outbreaks of heavy gunfire near the Zambian border about 11am. The borders of Caprivi, which touches four other countries, and the nearby airfield of Mpaacha, were closed today and journalists were not allowed to enter.

According to a South African businessman, an estimated 90 to 30 South African families live in Katima Mulilo, including a large Indian community and a number of South Africans working on road projects.

Sulleman Dockrat, a shop owner in the centre of town, was worried about possible looting, and although stores were ordered shut by police, he opened his, fearing people would break in for bread.

There was sporadic fighting last night and Mr Sulleman said he was trying to get his family out of the country, as all roads were blocked and flights grounded. According to Namibian radio



Wounded Namibian soldiers en route to hospital after being airlifted to safety

today, three soldiers were killed and eight wounded, five policemen killed and five wounded and five rebels killed and eight captured in the fighting yesterday.

Mr Dockrat said there were unconfirmed but widespread reports of civilian casualties. There was also talk that the rebel force crossed over from Zambia and had used mercenaries, but this could not be confirmed.

Adriaan Simus, charge d'affaires at the SA High Commission in Windhoek, said he had heard reports of 30 to 100 rebels being involved, but had

War-scarred land is home to farming tribes

Windhoek — The Caprivi Strip, a thin finger of land in north-eastern Namibia, which has turned into a battle ground for rebels and President Sam Nujoma's troops, has for years been the source of a bitter dispute with neighbouring Botswana.

The Caprivi region, also bordered by Angola and Zambia, in 1890 became a part of the German colony that Namibia was at the time. It came under South African control after the World War 2. Later, as Namibia fought its

southern neighbour for independence, the Caprivi with its 50 000 people became one of the most battle-ravaged parts of the country. Today the mostly marshy region, which is more than 400km long, but scarcely 50km wide, is inhabited by small-scale farmers who belong to the Masubia and Matwe tribes. The two tribes originally came from Zambia and Angola, but were lumped together here by the former colonial powers.

Yesterday the relative calm was shattered by several rebel attacks in the province, culminating in a firefight with government troops in the town of Katima Mulilo.

The trouble can be traced back to accusations in October by Mr Nujoma that a secessionist plot was being hatched in the Caprivi. The "terrorist" plot was masterminded by Mshake Muyongo, the former leader of the official opposition Democratic Turnhalle Alliance (DTA), which, having had similar suspicions, had sacked Mr Muyongo. Clear proof of the plot never surfaced, but Namibia launched a clamp-down on terrorist activities in the area late last year. — Sapa-AFP

Fighting erupts in Caprivi

(221)

Government forces bombarded the state broadcaster with mortar guns, a witness claims

BD 3/8/99

Christof Maletsky

WINDHOEK — Namibia faced its worst crisis since independence as government troops and separatists fought pitched battles in the northern Caprivi Strip yesterday leaving at least 13 dead and many wounded.

President Sam Nujoma said during a national news bulletin last night that he had declared a state of emergency in the Caprivi region until further notice. He said the dead included five rebels, five policemen and three soldiers.

Fighting started early yesterday when rebels from the Caprivi Liberation Army — who Namibian security sources maintain are backed by Jonas Savimbi's Unita rebel movement in Angola — attacked the police station in Katima Mulilo and the nearby Mpacha airport.

A witness claimed government forces bombarded the offices of the state broadcaster with mortar guns, but police and army spokesmen denied this, saying only teargas had been used.

The attack could herald increasing regional tension if it is proved that Savimbi is backing the Caprivi rebels. The likely flight of Caprivi refugees into neighbouring countries such as Botswana will deepen the crisis.

Officials said last night up to 19 rebels had been captured. Police imposed a 4pm curfew on the whole of the Caprivi Strip.

Schools and businesses were closed yesterday and the streets of the town deserted.

Skirmishes were still reputed to be taking place but police spokesman

Hieronymous Goraseb said: "The situation is now under control. We have the forces on the ground and have given clear instructions to tourists and other people not to move around. We have closed all the borders (with Angola, Zambia and Botswana)."

Katima Mulilo lies at a regional crossroads close to the borders of Angola, Botswana and Zambia.

The joint army and police force managed later to recapture the airport and local Namibian Broadcasting Corporation radio and television station from where the rebels announced their attack.

Sources said the rebels' plan to bomb Kongola bridge linking Namibia with Zambia had failed, but that they managed to attack other targets, including a local power station, before government forces responded.

An initial plot to secede the Caprivi Strip from Namibia was uncovered almost a year ago when Namibian security forces swooped on secret training camps in the Caprivi. At the time about 1,000 secessionists and more than 1,500 inhabitants from the region fled to Botswana where they were seeking asylum.

Secessionist leader Mishake Muyongo, who was resettled in Denmark last year after fleeing Caprivi, says the Caprivi should secede because it is neglected by the Namibian government.

However, Muyongo's critics accuse him of pursuing personal power and promoting separatist ethnic politics. They say his motives and behaviour replicate those of Savimbi and that he believes he was born to rule.

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Caprivi rebels vow long fight

Evacuated foreigners say gunfire punctuates uneasy calm

(221) AAU 4/8/99

Ngoma Bridge, Botswana — Gunfire continued in Namibia's volatile Caprivi Strip as a secessionist rebel leader promised a prolonged struggle in its fight for independence.

Residents in the main town of Katima Mulilo said calm was beginning to return, but yesterday occasional cracks of automatic fire could still be heard.

"We're hearing the odd spurt of gunfire, but nothing like yesterday. There's a strong military presence on the streets and loads of roadblocks, but it's quieter," a foreign conservationist in the town said.

The death toll after battles between government forces and rebels in and around Katima Mulilo is now put at 13.

A state of emergency still exists in the region and a dusk-to-dawn curfew is being enforced.

Foreign tourists and aid workers who were evacuated from the strip through the remote Ngoma Bridge border post into Botswana spoke of a tense calm after the fighting, the first armed conflict in the desert country since independence in 1990.

Namibia has blamed the Caprivi Liberation Army for the insurgency and accused former opposition party leader Meshake Muyongo, exiled in Denmark, of being behind the revolt.

"We are prepared to sacrifice our lives in order to get our freedom. This is just the beginning. The struggle will be long, it will get bigger and it will be victorious," Mr Muyongo said in an interview reported in the newspaper Die Republikein.

Mr Muyongo, 59, was expelled from the opposition Democratic Turnhalle Alliance party last year because of his strong secessionist leanings.

In a statement, the DTA ques-



Walking wounded: a Namibian policewoman, left, and a soldier hurt during the battles with Caprivi secessionist rebels in Katima Mulilo this week, arriving in Windhoek for treatment yesterday. The fighting cost 13 lives



REUTERS

tioned the effectiveness of Namibia's defence force and intelligence services in not identifying the separatist threat sooner.

"The DTA is horrified and outraged at the wanton slaughter that has taken place," a statement faxed to reporters said.

The Namibian Defence Force said Caprivi was firmly under government control.

"The security forces are in full control of the situation. We gave them (the rebels) a good run for their money," Major-General Martin Shalli told a news conference.

Rebels attacked the Mpacha military base in Katima Mulilo early on Monday and overran the offices of the Namibian Broadcasting Corporation, a military official said.

The ensuing battles left five rebels, five police and three soldiers dead. — Reuters

Caprivi rebels warn of more conflict

DD 4/8/99 (221)

Liberation army leader accuses Swapo of failing to honour 1964 agreement on self-determination

Christof Mafetsky

WINDHOEK — The leader of the Namibian group fighting for the secession of the Caprivi Strip, Meshake Muyongo, claimed responsibility yesterday for a rebel attack on security forces in the town of Katima Mulilo.

Muyongo, the Caprivi Liberation Army leader, said in a phone call: "This is just the beginning. The struggle will be long ... and we will be victorious."

He said he was calling from Copenhagen in Denmark but Zambian sources said he was "somewhere near Caprivi on the Zambian side of the border".

The Danish government, which granted asylum to Muyongo earlier this year, said it could not release details about his whereabouts.

Last year Muyongo and other separatists fled Caprivi for Botswana after the Namibian Defence Force raided a training camp used by secessionists.

Muyongo accused Namibia's ruling Swapo party of failing to honour an agreement in which it promised in 1964 that Caprivi would be given a chance to decide its future once independence was achieved.

"Nobody can make us a colony now. We are prepared to sacrifice our lives in order to get our freedom," Muyongo said.

He said the secessionists wanted to get rid of the corrupt regime of President Sam Nujoma. "The Caprivi has been neglected. We have been marginalised. Unemployment is rife ... we must find our own identity."

The police and defence force said fighting had calmed down yesterday except for sporadic shooting near the Mpacha airport and on the Zambian side of the border. The death toll remained at 13.

The borders to Zambia and Botswana were reopened but the 4pm curfew on the 90 000 residents remained in effect while the state of emergency, announced on Monday night, was also in full force with

roadblocks set up at every corner of Katima Mulilo and its environs. Schools and businesses remained closed yesterday and the streets deserted.

One of the victims in the saga appears to be the Danish consulate in Windhoek, which has asked for police protection following death threats by people accusing Denmark of helping Caprivi secessionists.

Braam Cupido of the Namibian foreign affairs ministry said the consulate's request was promptly referred to home affairs ministry.

Cupido said the foreign ministry did not take kindly to threats being made against diplomats and was taking the Danish request seriously.

By the end of yesterday police had posted guards at the consulate premises in Windhoek West.

Danish consul Lisbeth Moeller said that her office had received calls from at least three different people accusing Denmark of helping to organise the Caprivi "rebellion".

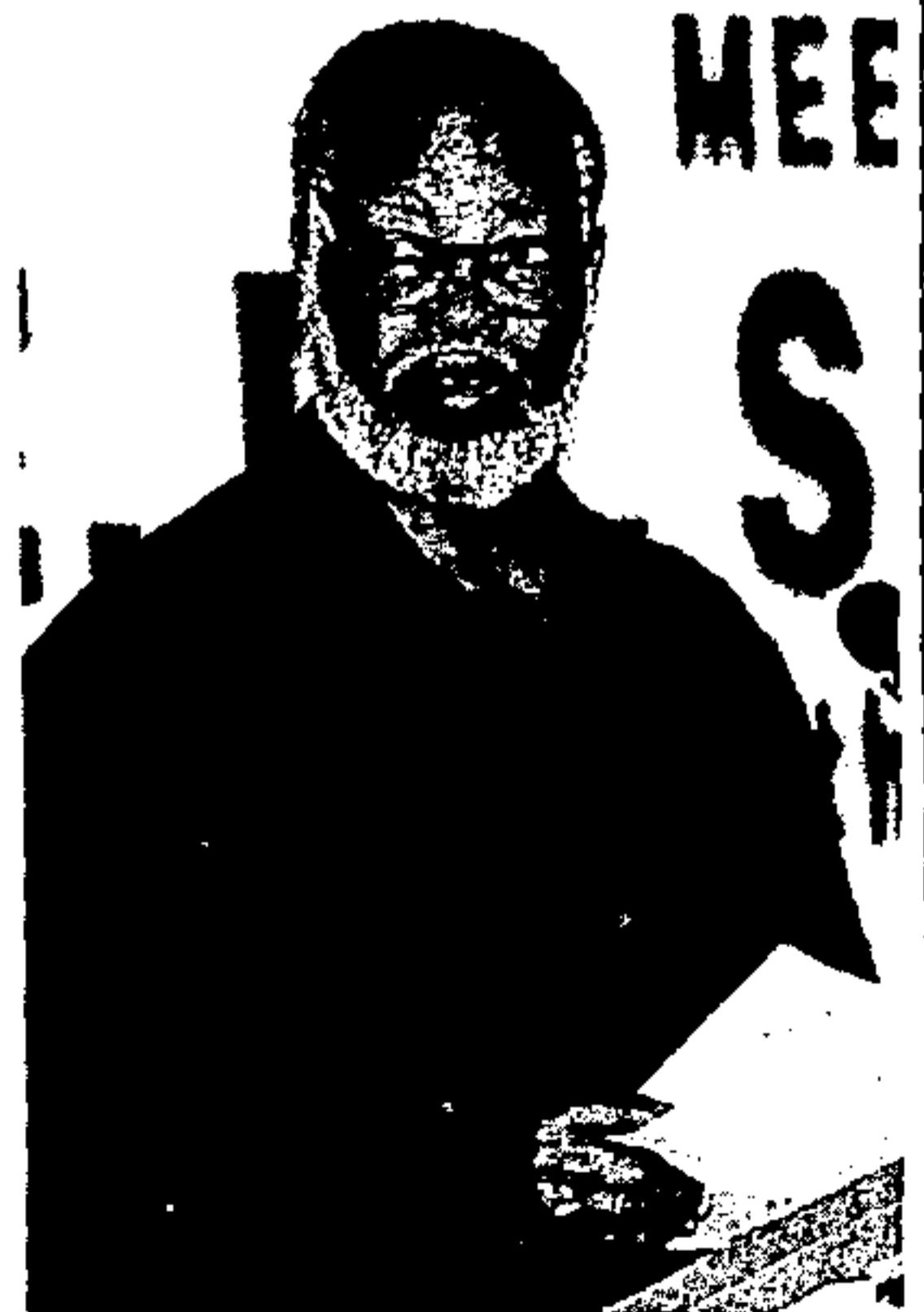
Moeller said some of the callers threatened to kill consulate staff and one said he was going to blow up the Danish consulate because Denmark had granted asylum to Muyongo.

However, Moeller said that when he fled to Botswana, Muyongo's refugee status was decided upon by the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) and the fact that he ended up in Denmark was by pure chance.

Moeller explained that various countries had a quota for the number of refugees they could accommodate, and it was the high commissioner who decided where to send asylum-seekers.

"It is not the Danish government's decision," said Moeller.

"It (Muyongo's refugee status in Denmark) does not express a political position of the Danish government," Moeller said.



Mishake Muyongo, the Caprivi Liberation Army leader, says his army wants to get rid of the corrupt regime of President Sam Nujoma, above. Picture: AFP

Just the start
says chief
secessionist

'SA TRUCK DRIVER SHOT'

at 4/8/99

Aid workers evacuated from 'tense' Caprivi (221)

TABBY MOYO
INDEPENDENT FOREIGN SERVICE

WINDHOEK: The attacks on government facilities in the Caprivi were "just the beginning", secessionist leader and former Swapo official Meshake Muyongo said.

Interviewed by *Die Republikein* by telephone from Copenhagen, Denmark, where he is in exile, Muyongo said the struggle for the "liberation of the Caprivi" would be a long one and would get bigger and more vicious.

"We said some time back (that) Swapo has to honour the agreement it gave in 1964 that the Caprivi would be given the chance to decide on its own future. Nobody, but nobody, can make us a colony now. We are prepared to sacrifice our lives for our freedom. This is just the beginning," Muyongo said.

He was quoted as saying that the people of Caprivi must get rid of the "corrupt regime of Sam Nujoma and win the chance to decide on our own destiny".

The Caprivi, he said, had been neglected, its people marginalised and subjected to unemployment.

Meanwhile, the leader of the Barotse Patriotic Front (BPF) in Zambia has pledged its full support for the Caprivi secessionists.

Barotse borders the Caprivi region. The people share the Lozi language and a cultural identity with the people of Caprivi.

Kelvin Shimo, a reporter with *The Post* in Lusaka, said BPF leader Imasiku Mutangehwa said he would call a meeting to find means of assisting the secessionists.

KATIMA MULILO: Government forces patrolled the streets of this dusty town in the Caprivi Strip as an exiled opposition leader claimed responsibility for a secessionist attack.

THE head of a militant Caprivi secessionist movement vowed yesterday to continue the fight to "liberate" Caprivi province in Namibia as sporadic gunfire continued in and around Katima Mulilo.

On Monday at least 13 people died when about 80 lightly armed rebels calling themselves the Caprivi Liberation Army attacked the police station, military base, radio station and other installations in the town before government troops expelled them.

Zim 'won't stand by idly'

HARARE: Zimbabwe has warned the separatist guerrillas in Caprivi that it will not stand by idly while its key regional ally's territorial integrity is under threat.

And in Windhoek, Danish diplomatic staff asked for police protection, saying they had received death threats because Denmark had given asylum to Caprivi secessionist leader Meshake Muyongo.

Meshake Muyongo, leader of the secessionists, said from exile in Denmark that his movement would fight to liberate Caprivi from the "corrupt" Windhoek government.

European and American aid workers and tourists left the town en masse yesterday for Botswana.

The 20 to 30 South African families in the town — mostly small shopkeepers — appeared to have opted to stay, though some said they were only doing so to avoid their shops being looted.

A spokesperson for the Zimbabwean Defence Ministry said the separatist threat was too insignificant to warrant direct military intervention by Zimbabwe.

However, he pointed out that Zimbabwe, Angola, Namibia and the DRC had earlier this year signed a defence pact in Luanda to safeguard the defence interests of the four countries. — Independent Foreign Service

The death toll rose to 14 yesterday as a foreign civilian working with a construction company — believed to be South African — was shot by jumpy security forces apparently because he was driving too fast on a road outside town.

Sporadic fighting continued in villages around the town yesterday and Namibian forces arrested at least 39 alleged rebels.

"It is very tense everywhere," said US aid workers as they were leaving town. The US embassy had organised an overland evacuation of all its citizens.

"The army killed someone because he was driving fast. They shot him. Hit him in the neck. He was a white man in a construction truck. He must have been South African," said a Zambian who fled after the fighting died down.

Sulleman Dockrat, a South African shopkeeper, said he was desperate to get his family out, but had been unable to with roads and the airport closed.

Greg Mills, national director of the SA Institute of International Affairs, suspected the attack was an attempt by Unita to destabilise Namibia, an ally of Angola's, rather than the start of a genuine secessionist movement. — IFS

Calm returns to Caprivi after clashes (221)

CALM returned to Namibia's Caprivi Strip town of Katima Mulilo yesterday after 13 people were killed there on Monday in battles between security forces and secessionist rebels.

"The situation is as calm as normal and under control," Namibian Defence Force chief of staff Major General Martin Shalli told AFP.

Shalli said there were no overnight clashes between security forces and rebels, who stormed the northeastern town early on Monday and tried to seize key installations apparently as part of their bid for the secession of the territory.

The South African Broadcasting Corporation reported that sporadic gunfire was heard overnight and during the morning in the small town, the main centre in the Caprivi Strip, a long, thin finger of land bordered by Zambia, Zimbabwe, Botswana and Angola.

The radio said the United States embassy had withdrawn all its peace corps volunteers

from the town, some 150 kilometres north-east of the capital Windhoek, and other foreign embassies were following suit.

Residents were tense and businesses and border posts near the town were closed and the streets were empty, radio reports in neighbouring South Africa said.

Shalli said that casualty figures remained as announced by president Sam Nujoma late on Monday. Nujoma said in a television broadcast that 13 people were killed in the battles — 10 security forces and three rebels.

Another 13 soldiers were wounded, said Nujoma, announcing an indefinite state of emergency across the province.

About 18 rebels had been captured, according to radio reports in Namibia, but this could not be confirmed by the army or police.

Shalli would not comment on a radio report that the rebels had fled to a base in Zambia and said such matters were "operational details".

The rebels are believed to be from the Caprivi Liberation Army (CLA), a shadowy separatist group which emerged last year.

This was their first armed attack, although CLA members were accused of murdering a renegade member in October.

Early on Monday, the rebels stormed the town and tried to seize an army base, police station and radio station, from where they apparently announced their attack.

They were repelled but managed to hold onto the offices of the Namibian Broadcasting Corporation (NBC) until after noon on Monday, when the military flushed them out with teargas and mortars.

In the capital Windhoek, the Afrikaans-language daily newspaper *Die Republikein* quoted the CLA leader Meshake Muyongo saying, "This is just the beginning. The struggle will be long. It will get bigger and will be victorious." — Sapa-AFP

● See picture on page 6.

Complex motives in the Caprivi

The separatists predict a protracted war, write **Christof Maletsky** and **Claire Pickard-Cambridge**

THE attacks by separatists on government forces in Namibia on Monday have been brewing since last year when villagers in the Caprivi Strip warned of a secret military training camp in the Mudumu National Park.

The strip, which borders Angola, Zambia, Zimbabwe and Botswana, soon became increasingly unstable as military searches for the rebels resulted in the flight of about 2,000 refugees to Botswana.

There are indications that the separatists of the Caprivi Liberation Army are backed by another secessionist group in southwestern Zambia — the Barotse Patriotic Front, made up of members of the same tribe — and Angolan rebel leader Jonas Savimbi. The patriotic front has indicated openly that it supports the Caprivi rebels, but the Angolan rebel movement Unita has not expressed support.

Monday's attack has serious domestic implications for Namibia and is likely to exacerbate regional instability with the Caprivi Liberation Army predicting a protracted war. All these developments will have negative consequences for investment and future developments in the region.

Training and supplies for the Caprivi rebels is likely to be provided by several different sources. Unita is thought to have provided training in southern Angola and arms can easily be acquired in western Zambia. There was widespread theft of weapons from the Namibian Defence Force in the early years after independence, and many living in the Caprivi received training from the former SA Defence Force when it had a base at Katima Mulilo in the 1970s and 1980s. Residents in the Caprivi may therefore retain SADF weapons as well.

Namibian political analysts claim that Unita is involved in a bid to punish Namibia for supporting the Democratic Republic of Congo government in its civil war — Savimbi's Unita is reputedly fighting alongside Congolese rebels.

Analysts say Unita wants to back the Caprivians to create instability near Namibia's borders in order to distract Namibia and the Southern African Development Community's (SADC's) attention from Congo.

Although this is not conclusive evidence, police sources from Katima Mulilo say at least one of the captured separatists could speak only Portuguese, indicating that he was Angolan. They also say about 15 armed men in khaki uniforms and wearing the red headbands of Unita soldiers were seen walking towards Katima Mulilo on Monday. Officials have not yet been able to confirm whether Monday's attacks were launched from Zambia or Angola.

The prospect of prolonged instability is looming now with exiled Caprivi separatist leader Mishake Muyongo vowing yesterday to step up the battle for independence. He accuses the Namibian government of corruption and neglecting the Caprivi. However, even before Namibian independence the Caprivi was never supportive of Sam Nujoma's Swapo party.

Muyongo, a former leader of Caprivi African National Union, South West Africa Peoples Organisation (Swapo) and the Democratic Turnhalle Alliance was given asylum in Denmark two months ago with Malwe Chief Boniface Mambili who abdicated his throne to fight for the secession of Caprivi.

The Barotse Patriotic Front is campaigning for the secession of Barotseland in the west of Zambia. Barotseland borders Namibia's Caprivi region and the people of the two regions share a common Lozi language.

"It is Lozi reasoning to be free. Their (Muyongo's group's) thinking is just the same," says Barotse leader Imasuka Mutangwe. He says the Lozis in Zambia are meeting to find a way of assisting the Caprivi secessionists and says Zambian President Frederick Chiluba should take a leaf from events in the Caprivi region.

Mutangwe has appealed to Lozi-speaking people in the surrounding countries to support the Caprivi rebels, and it was reported yesterday that some Lozis in Zambia were crossing the border to help their relatives in the Caprivi.

Hannu de Beer of the Institute for Security Studies argues that while other parties might have their own agendas in supporting the Caprivi Liberation Army, this is primarily a secessionist issue. It is also an issue for the Namibian government to address because the authorities do tend to forget about areas which are so remote.

Although it is believed that the Caprivi Liberation Army got some training from Unita, she doubts whether Unita is the main group behind the attack.

"Angola has been pressing Namibia to use the infrastructure of northern Namibia to fight Savimbi and Mapacha Airport would be handy for launching attacks and opening up a new front against Unita in southern Angola. This means that Savimbi might have wanted sympathetic forces in the Caprivi in the event of the Angolan army deploying forces from that base."

The Caprivi is not essential to Savimbi for supplies because he has other traditional supply routes through Namibia. Namibian authorities and security forces, allied to the Angolan government, tend to be quick to blame Savimbi, she says.

Meanwhile, Barotse sources say Muyongo's rebels — who fled to Botswana last year after Namibian security forces raided their training camp in the Caprivi — will not flee to Zambia because the Zambian government would ensure their extradition to Namibia.

"Because of secessionist threats made to the Zambian government by the Barotse front and other organisations, the government there is going to arrest and deport them immediately," he says. "There are indications that Muyongo has also met leaders of other Zambian secessionist movements — the Lisel Conservatie Party and the Agenda for Zambia."

The Barotse leader says the secessionist moves in Zambia are rooted in the land issue and that Zambian Lozis are demanding local autonomy. "If this is not sorted out the issue will persist."

In one of the Barotse front pamphlets, the Lozis people are said to include the Masaliba, Malwe, Kwangali and Mbulukushu tribes. "These tribes all have some representation in Namibia as well."

Muyongo, in turn, has a track record of seeking power and secession. In 1980, while he was Swapo vice-president, the party had found him guilty of plotting the secession of Caprivi.

the secession of the Caprivi Strip and the proclamation of a so-called Republic of Ilhenge. He remained in the political wilderness until he joined the Turnhalle alliance in 1989. He is no longer a member.

The Namibian government knew Muyongo was cultivating connections with foreign mercenaries and other separatists in the SADC. "It is from these hated sources that he has been able to secure money, weapons and training facilities in some of the neighbouring states," President Sam Nujoma said recently.

Many are asking what the secessionists have to gain — the poverty-stricken area has no significant tax base, no ports and only one key road running through it.

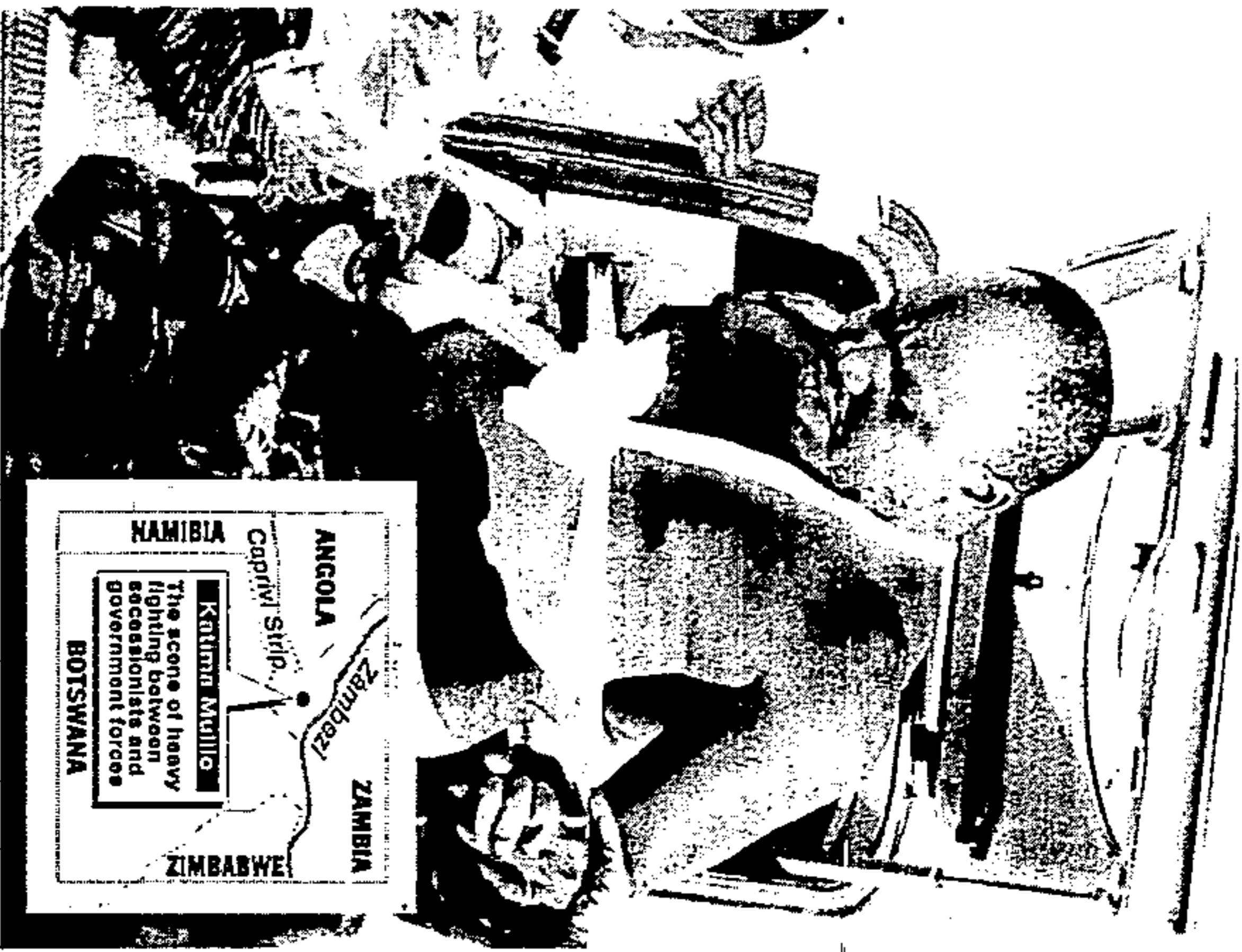
Although Muyongo says Caprivi should secede as it is neglected by the Namibian government, others say Muyongo is pursuing personal power. They accuse him of promoting separatist ethnic politics and say his motives and behaviour replicate those of Savimbi.

The Barotse tribe, or Lozi speakers, straddle the borders of Zambia, Namibia and Botswana, although the majority, about 1.5-million of them, live in Zambia.

There was already speculation in December last year that the Barotse front was working closely with the Caprivi secessionists to try to create a separate state.

The expected flight of more refugees to Botswana is expected to create tensions again with Namibia. Botswana angered Namibia last year by granting asylum to the refugees, even though they were sent on to other destinations, some have been repatriated to the Caprivi without incident.

Politics in the Caprivi have become increasingly complicated following the flight to Botswana last year of its regional governor John Mabuku and national councillor Francis Sizimbo. Despite complaints that the regional elections would not be representative at a time when several opposition Turnhalle candidates had just fled into



A wounded Namibian Defence Force soldier is flown back to Windhoek last night from the Caprivi. Picture: CHRISTOF MALETSKY

Botswana, the Namibian Electoral Commission gave the go-ahead for the poll to take place in Caprivi. Swapo won all six seats in the Caprivi, with less than 20% of voters casting their ballots in the Linyanti, Sibinda and Kongola constituencies. This suggests that a degree of turmoil and political disaffection could possibly continue in the foreseeable future.

While the strip may seem a remote area, developments there are likely to have a ripple effect on neighbouring regions if problems are not sorted out.

Rebels' warning; Page 11

The Pearl Harbour of the Kalahari

BY S/8/99 (cont)



WHAT started as a crackpot secessionist movement with a long history of political opportunism mutated into a bloody bid for control of Katima Mulilo, capital of the Caprivi Strip, early this week. The biggest losers are the Kxoe people, the Bushmen, who are busy losing everything, writes **TONY WEAVER**, who visited the area in June.

KATIMA MULILO is not one of my favourite towns. I once heard it described as "the armpit of Africa" — wet, hairy and smelly. Perched above the Zambezi, it is an unprepossessing, motley collection of apartheid-era architectural zeroes with few redeeming features.

But down by the river it's a different story, a Zambezi story. Mention the name "Katima" to a generation of South African white men and they will beam fond smiles, "a Katima", they will say, "giff place". This is where they used to *ballas bak* and sultan using brake fluid as tanning lotion. High point was the Sonia Herhold concert at the canteen and free copies of *Scope* magazine.

This was *The Border*. Katima was one of the South African Defence Force's most important forward bases in the war against Swapo and Angola. It was the place where thousands of young white boys learnt that war can be both hell and heaven, paradise in the jungle, but hell when the orders came to advance and invade Angola.

It was from here that South Africa ran its major operations in support of the bandit army of Jonas Savimbi, Unita. It was from here that South Africa launched its commando raids and destabilisation operations into Botswana, Zimbabwe and Zambia. Katima Mulilo is one of the most strategically important towns in Africa, the Pearl Harbour of the northern Kalahari.

It is the capital of a tiny sliver of land about 400km long and never much more than 50km wide which sticks up like a finger, an up yours to its neighbours. Everybody wants the Caprivi. The Angolan government wants the Caprivi because the air bases at Mpacha and Bagan and elsewhere would give it the capacity to strike the soft underbelly of Unita. Katima is the Wild West. Here be the gun runners, smugglers, prostitutes, bandits, mercenaries, crooks, fugitives and insurrectionists.

It sits astraddle the borders between Namibia, Angola, Botswana, Zambia and Zimbabwe. There are Caprivi residents who are former members of Koovoot or the Reccos, or Portuguese-speaking former members of Unita and the FNLA. It is a place of casual violence and constant intrigue.

Many of the tourists who come here are white South Africans who were once members of various special forces units themselves, bringing their wives and kids on nostalgic journeys to their boyhood fantasies. Some of the white and Mestizo residents who have stayed on are go-betweens or playmakers for Unita. Unita men cross the river and steal women. This is bandit country.

Angola, Zambia, Zimbabwe and Botswana want the Caprivi because they all regard it as being rightfully theirs. And Jonas Savimbi and his Unita movement want it because they recognise that possession of the

This is where most of the Kxoe people live. They were moved here when Namibia became independent because they feared that they would be victimised for having been trackers and scouts for the South African army in the guerrilla war against Swapo. Their fears were fuelled by hype by South African army officers who wanted to take their pets home with them.

So today most of the Kxoe of Schmitzdorf live in a wasteland where alcoholism, prostitution and STDs are accepted norms. Not very long ago, the norms were whether the elephants would trush the samma melons or the lions take the donkey. It is romantically easy and politically correct to see the San or Bushmen as infinitely wise people who hold in their hands a crucible of knowledge and tradition that predates all history in Africa. This was true, but in modern society they are marginalised, illiterate, bewildered, confused and unable to cope with the pressures to which they are subjected daily. Brandy and zol are an easy escape into a paradise lost.

The Kxoe people come from the Garden of Eden. The Caprivi is very close to being paradise on earth. It is an extension of the Okavango and Linyanti Swamps, of the Chobe and Moremi areas of Botswana, Victoria Falls is just over 100km from Katima Mulilo. The Caprivi is a decadently lush and luxurious place on the edge of some of the world's harshest deserts.

The Kavango and Zambezi Rivers form two of the boundaries, and the forest is dense and overpowering, part of southern Africa's biggest concentration of elephants and home to an astonishing diversity of game and birdlife. I have sat in these forests and walked as a sea of elephants swarmed around us — we lost count at 500.

But it is also home to many poisonous snakes, and one of them is a man called Mlshake Muyongo. Muyongo founded the Caprivi African National Union, Canu, in 1963 with Brendan Simbwaye, as a revolutionary movement fighting for independence for Namibia and the Caprivi. Muyongo rose to become Swapo vice president in charge of security, and was briefly one of Sam Nujoma's right hand men.

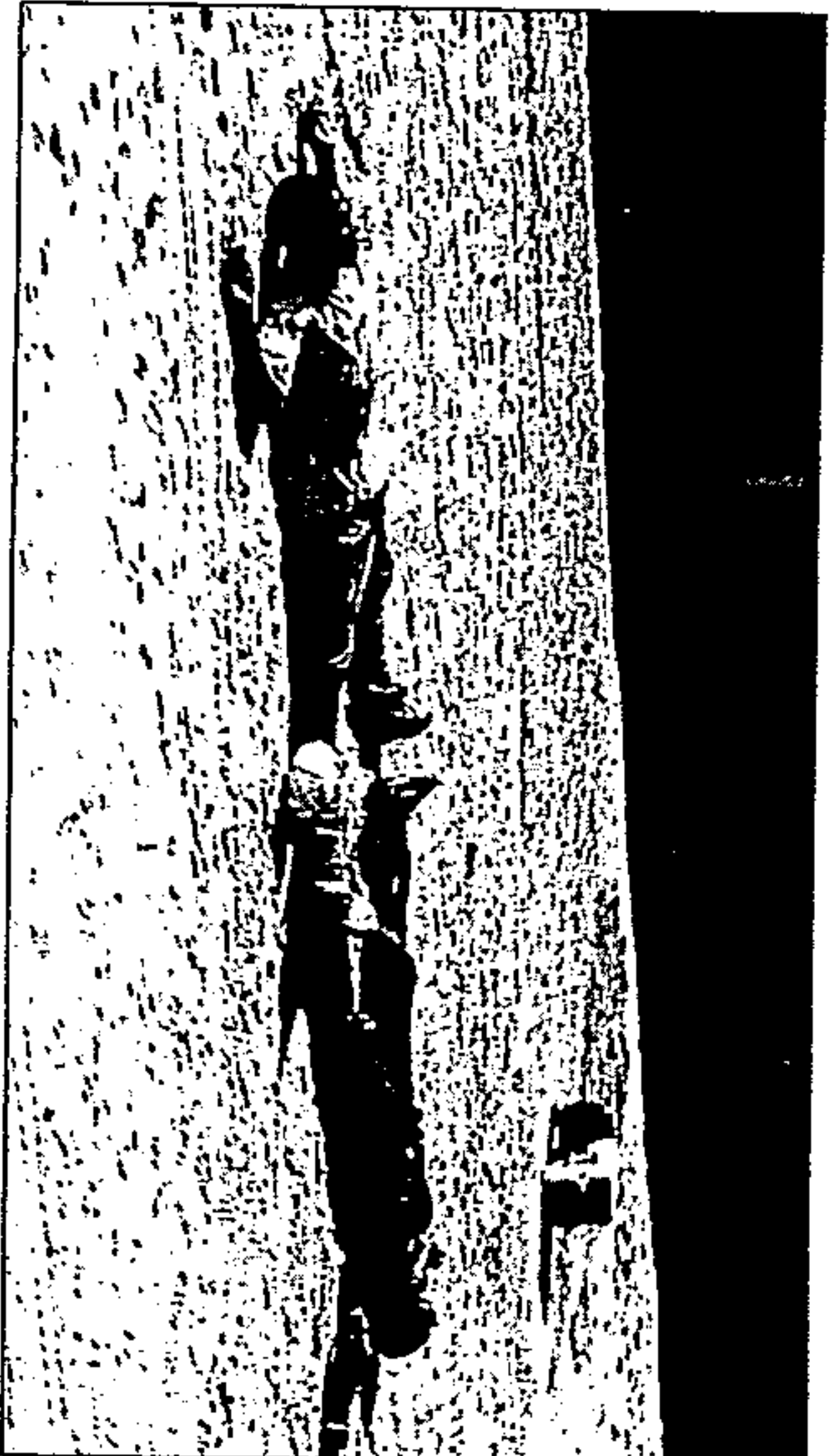
But Muyongo has long been known as one of the crazy men of Namibian politics. He has jumped back and forth between the night and the left wings, alternately revolutionary against and collaborator with the apartheid occupation forces. At one stage he was president of the pro-South African Democratic Turnhalle Alliance, DTA.

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He was subsequently granted political asylum in Denmark, and seems to be leading the secessionist movement from there, an African Hamlet.



EDGED OUT OF EXISTANCE: An old blind man and his wife from the Kavango area. The Kxoe people of the Caprivi have been in the crossfire of war for the past 25 years. **PICTURE: PAUL WEBER**



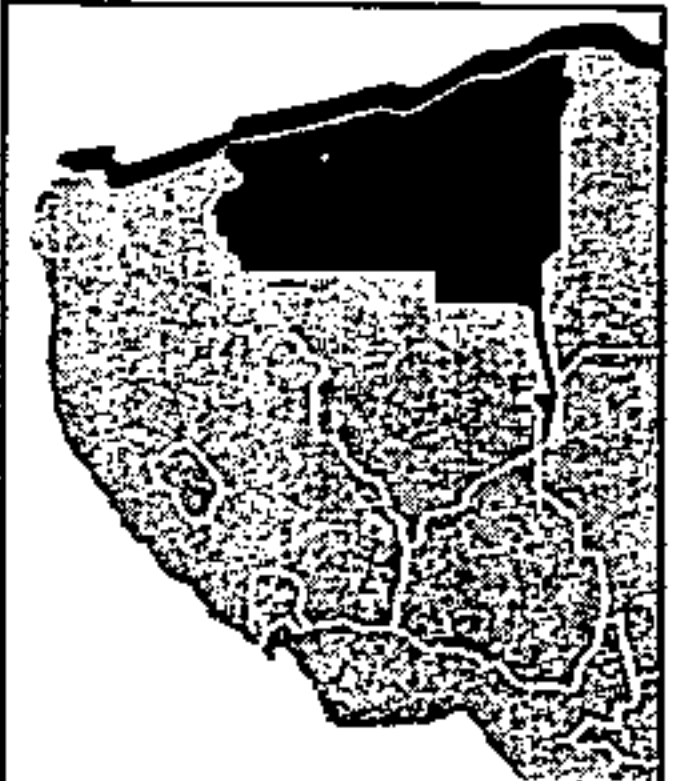
THE PRICE OF WAR: Two bodies lie in a Katimo Mulilo street after an attack by separatists, which claimed at least 15 lives earlier this week. **PICTURE: AP**

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- Arabic land: 1%.
- Population: 1 662 328 (July 1998 estimate).
- Population growth rate is 4.6%.
- Life expectancy is 44 years.
- Literacy rate is 45% for men and 31% for women.
- Availability of military personnel (males aged 15-49): 369 826.
- There are an estimated 221 624 people fit for military service.
- Military expenditure forms 2.1% of Namibia's GDP.
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Angola, Zambia, Zimbabwe and Botswana want the Caprivi because they all regard it as being rightfully theirs. And Jonas Savimbi and his Unita movement want it because they recognise that possession of the Caprivi potentially holds the key to their defeat.

History has it that the land traditionally belongs to the Makwe and Masubia tribes, both heavily co-opted by the South African authorities during the war of occupation. But the truth is that much of the Caprivi belongs to the Kxoe San, Bushmen, people.

The story of the Kxoe is one of the tragic stories of Africa. Just outside Kimberley is a place called Schmitzdift.

This is where most of the Kxoe people live. They were moved here when Namibia became independent because they feared that they would be victimised for having been trackers and scouts for the South African army in the guerrilla war against Swapo. Their fears were fuelled by hype by South African army officers who wanted to take their pits home with them.

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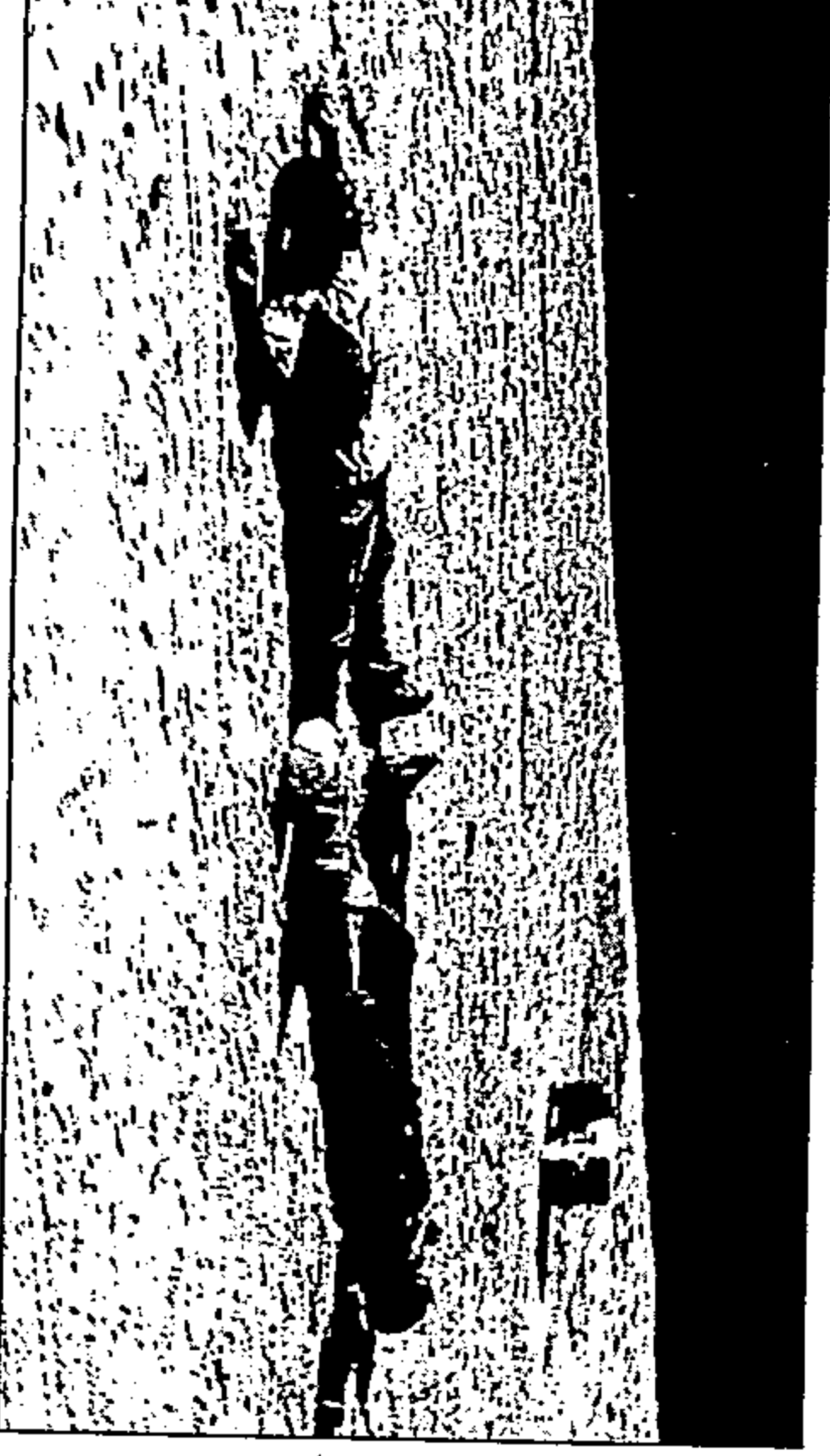
He was subsequently granted political asylum in Denmark, and seems to be leading the secessionist movement from there, an African Hamlet.

This could all be written off as comic-opera African farce, a plot out of Jean-Jacques Annaud's 1976 film, *Black and White in Colour*, which had Inqet German and French troops fighting meaningless battles over a useless piece of land because nationalism and colonial pride demanded it.

Except that this is deadly serious stuff. The Caprivi Strip is one of those bizarre accidents of colonial history which, 100 years later, is one of the



EDGED OUT OF EXISTANCE: An old blind man and his wife from the Kavango area. The Kxoe people of the Caprivi have been in the crossfire of war for the past 25 years. **PICTURE: PAUL WEINBERG**



THE PRICE OF WAR: Two bodies lie in a Katima Mulilo street after an attack by separatists, which claimed at least 15 lives earlier this week. **PICTURE: AP**

strategic keys to the war in Angola and, potentially, the war in the Congo. If Zimbabwe implodes, then it will become even more strategic.

Meanwhile, pity the Kxoe. Mishake Muyongo and his henchmen cynically used them by recruiting them into his half-baked secessionist movement through a combination of false promises, threats and superstition.

Half of the Kxoe people of the Caprivi, around 3 000 people, fled to Botswana at the end of last year because they feared they would be identified with the secessionists.

When photographer Paul Weinberg and I visited their community conservation camp site on the Caprivi side of Popsa Falls in June, we found just a

handful of people there.

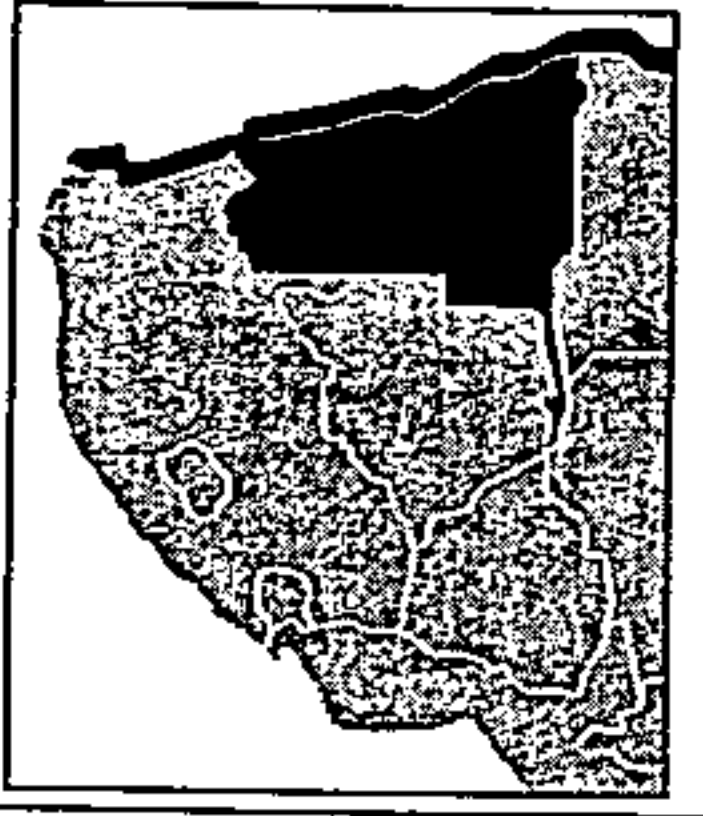
The authorities had built a blade-wire encircled prison camp that stretched from the main Caprivi highway almost down to the river, on top of Kxoe traditional land. The few Kxoe people left were reluctant to speak. Their chief, Kibi (or Kippie) George, and his senior advisor, Thadous Chedau, had both fled to Botswana.

They have been caught in the crossfire of war for 25 years now. They have been used and abused by successive armies and politicians. The dust will settle quickly on the ruins of Katima Mulilo, but it is probably too late for the Kxoe of the Caprivi.

They are a people lost in time, doomed to wander in the Diaspora of the San.

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- Namibia owes close to R1 900 million in external debt.
- There are 89 722 telephones.
- There are three television broadcast stations and 27 000 television sets.
- There are 195 000 radios.
- There are 2 382km of railway.
- There are 64 799km of highway, of which 7 841 is paved.
- There are 135 airports, 22 have paved runways.



Foreigners blocked from leaving Caprivi

NGOMA, Namibia: Foreigners were blocked from leaving Namibia's Caprivi Strip yesterday as soldiers sealed borders, preventing anyone from fleeing or entering while police and the army arrested people suspected of involvement in Monday's secessionist attack on the regional capital Katima Mulilo.

Zambia sent its three military heads to that country's western province across the border from Caprivi to prevent a possible spillover into Zambia where the Barotsche Patriotic Front, consisting of the Lozi people of the same ethnic group as the Caprivians, has vowed to give its full support to them.

The military chiefs will also investigate claims that the attack was launched from Zambia.

And in Windhoek the United Nations High Commission for Refugees (UNHCR) said it would review the refugee status in Denmark of exiled Namibian politician, Mishake Muyongo, who told a Namibian newspaper on Monday that the firefights

between separatist rebels and security forces were "just the beginning".

The UNHCR's deputy regional representative Mengesha Kebede said in Windhoek that if these remarks were confirmed, Muyongo would be in "flagrant violation" of his refugee status, which had required him to renounce violence or subversive activities against his government.

The Namibian government earlier requested Muyongo's asylum be revoked.

Witnesses said there was renewed shooting in Katima Mulilo yesterday afternoon as authorities rounded up suspected rebels or sympathisers, including a Portuguese-speaking man, further fuelling

speculation that the attack was assisted in some way by Angolan Unita.

Namibian state radio broadcast official assurances that the borders were functioning normally, according to Katima residents, but soldiers, citing new state of emergency rules issued yesterday, blocked journalists from entering and forced mostly South African vehicles queued at the main Ngoma border crossing with Botswana to stay inside Caprivi.



AWARD-WINNING WRITER TONY WEAVER LOOKS AT THE WINNERS AND LOSERS IN THE BATTLE FOR THE CAPRIVI.

— PAGE 13

without reason," complained Dr. Gunther Voigt, a medical doctor from Milfonters, Germany, who with six other German tourists, was prevented from entering Botswana.

Sources at the Katima Mulilo hospital

ET 5/8/99 (aai)

said the region is now without doctors as the four foreign doctors had fled.

Francois Fouche, a property manager for Rep Stores in Katima Mulilo, said the city was calm. About 100 soldiers were patrolling the town centre. Only the bookstore and two grocery stores were open.

"There are lots of businesses staying shut but they are worried that if they stay shut people will rot and loot," he said.

Namibia's tourism industry has started to feel the pinch of the rebellion with a number of foreign tourists reported to have cancelled their trips to the country. Tour operators, especially from Germany, have started calling off trips to Namibia and travel agents expect Americans to do the same soon.

Even in South Africa, travel agents are bracing themselves for cancellations from German and American tourists, especially as these are known to be especially sensitive to political upheavals, and not necessarily very knowledgeable about the precise geography of their destinations

Curfew as troops 'in full control' move to mop up Caprivi rebels

FOREIGN SERVICE

Windhoek - Namibian troops have been deployed to mop up remnants of the rebels of the Caprivi Liberation Army (CLA), who this week attempted to capture Katima Mulilo, a town about 5km from the Zambian border.

The rebels, fighting for the independence of the Caprivi Strip in the north-east of the country, on Monday attacked the Namibian Broadcasting Corporation,

a military airport and police stations in Katima Mulilo, resulting in 13 deaths.

The Namibian army had ordered the 90 000 people in the Caprivi region to remain indoors at night in a bid to make the mop up operations easier, said Major General Marthin Shall.

A dusk-to-dawn curfew was imposed after President Sam Nujoma on Monday declared a state of emergency in the region.

Mal-Gon Shall said the Namibian defence forces had regained full control

of the region and that soldiers were patrolling the streets of Katima Mulilo.

But Mishake Muyongo, the secessionist leader, has been quoted in the Namibian media as saying that Monday's upheaval was just the beginning.

Speaking from Copenhagen in Denmark, where he is exiled, Mr Muyongo said the struggle for the "liberation of the Caprivi would be a long one and would get bigger and more vicious."

He said the ruling South West African People's Organisation (Swapo) agreed in

1964 that the Caprivi Strip would be given the chance to decide its own future.

Before the 1984-1985 Berlin Conference - which drew up Africa's borders - the Caprivi Strip in Namibia and Zambia's western province was a nation ruled by Lozi kings.

The Lozi, whose kingdom was called Barotseland, is the ethnic group to which both communities belong.

Lozis' dream to remain as one nation was, however, shattered, when former Zambian president Kenneth Kaunda

signed an agreement, before Zambia's independence in 1964, with the King of Barotseland, Sir Mwanawina Lawanika, incorporating the autonomous region into Zambia and leaving the Caprivi Strip in Namibia.

Namibia's tourism industry has already started to feel the pinch of the unrest as tourist groups are reported to have cancelled their trips to the country. Even in South Africa, travel agents are bracing for cancellations from tourists unfamiliar with Africa's geography.



Caprivi separatists arrested in Zambia

BO 6/8/99 (221)
Christof Maletsky

WINDHOEK — More than 40 separatist rebels who fled the Caprivi Strip this week have been arrested in western Zambia. Namibian immigration officials are travelling there to assess police reports that half of them are Angolan.

The Namibian team, which left for Sesheke in Zambia yesterday, will screen the separatists there, while Namibian security forces are continuing to make arrests in both the Caprivi Strip and Windhoek.

Reports that the rebels are Angolan come amid speculation that Angolan rebel leader Jonas Savimbi may be supporting the Caprivi Liberation Army which launched an attack on security forces in Katima Mulilo on Monday. Exiled separatist leader Mishake Muyongo denied yesterday that Savimbi or the Barotse Patriotic Front, another secessionist group in western Zambia, were assisting his movement.

The army, which is in control of the Caprivi, will not say how many people have been arrested so far.

Sources says two of Muyongo's children had been picked up by police in Windhoek while many others, including former parliamentarian Geoffrey Mwilima, a cousin of Muyongo, has been arrested. Mwilima was arrested hours after he called on government to initiate a debate on secession of the Caprivi Strip.

Mwilima said people in Caprivi were confused by statements about an alleged agreement signed in 1964 by the South West African Peoples Organisation (Swapo) and the Caprivi African National Union.

Swapo has denied the existence of the agreement in which Muyongo claims Swapo promised Caprivians would be allowed to decide whether they wanted to remain part of an independent Namibia.

"We are not going to resolve this problem if we don't sit around a table," said Mwilima.

Mwilima said the issue of seceding Caprivi (or the envisaged Republic of Itenge) from the rest of Namibia had been raised before but had become urgent because "many Caprivians feel ill-treated". Development was not taking place in Caprivi and government was not listening to traditional leaders, he said.

Botswana and Zimbabwe have pledged to assist the Namibian government if problems continue.

SA diplomatic sources said former SA President Nelson Mandela never responded to a letter from Muyongo earlier this year because SA did not want to give "legitimacy" to the exiled leader.

Caprivians demand independence

By Allister Bull

KASANE, Botswana - An excited guerrilla leader vowed this week to fight for independence for the remote Caprivi region of Namibia where rebels attacked a military base killing 15 people.

Mishake Muyongo told South African radio that the people of Caprivi had suffered under the government of Namibia's president Sam Nujoma and had no choice but to fight.

"We want to be Caprivians on our own. We don't want to be an appendix of Namibia. We have suffered a lot for the past nine years of Namibia's independence," Muyongo (59) said.

"Sam Nujoma does nothing for the Caprivians. He has nothing in common with us. Our history, our geography, our culture, our traditions are totally different," he said from Denmark where he has been granted asylum.

Caprivi, a 400km sliver of land wedged between Angola and Zambia to the north and Botswana to the south, is home to about 100,000 of the country's 1.6 million population.

About 100 guerrillas attacked a military base and television station on Monday in Caprivi's capital, Katima Mulilo, killing 15 people in street-by-street fighting before being suppressed by the Namibian army.

Residents told reporters yesterday that the town had returned to calm, with roadblocks lifted, no curfew and people going about their regular business.

"There we cut on the road, garages and shops are open and it looks like it is going back to normal," said a local businessman who declined to be named.

Ready to attack
Muyongo, a former leader of Namibia's opposition party and a one-time close ally of Nujoma, said on Tuesday that his so-called Caprivi Liberation Army was ready to attack again.

"We are prepared to sacrifice our lives in order to get our freedom," he said in an interview with the Namibian newspaper *Die Republikein*.

"This is just the beginning. The struggle will be long, it will get bigger and it will be victorious."

After Monday's attack analysts said that the guerrillas might be backed by the Unita rebel movement in Angola which opposes Namibia's support for Angolan president Jose Eduardo dos Santos. But

Caprivi is a 400km sliver of land wedged between Angola and Zambia. Muyongo denied any links with the fighting.

"Unita is fighting their war in Angola, we are the Caprivians and we are fighting our war of liberation in Caprivi. Unita is a totally different entity," he said.

Namibia's army chief of staff suggested that the guerrillas were being supported by local-speaking insurgents in Zambia who have also pushed for autonomy.

Most Caprivians speak Lozi, in contrast to the rest of Namibia. The leader of a Zambian faction, the Banise Patriotic Front, told a

Zambian newspaper that his followers were already "marching across the border to help the Caprivi separatists."

Zimbabwe, defence and security chiefs flew to the Namibian capital Windhoek on Tuesday to coordinate with colleagues on how to fight the separatists in the Caprivi, security officials said.

They said the army, airforce and police commanders accompanied by the intelligence director-general held talks with their Namibian counterparts. Reuters

Reuters

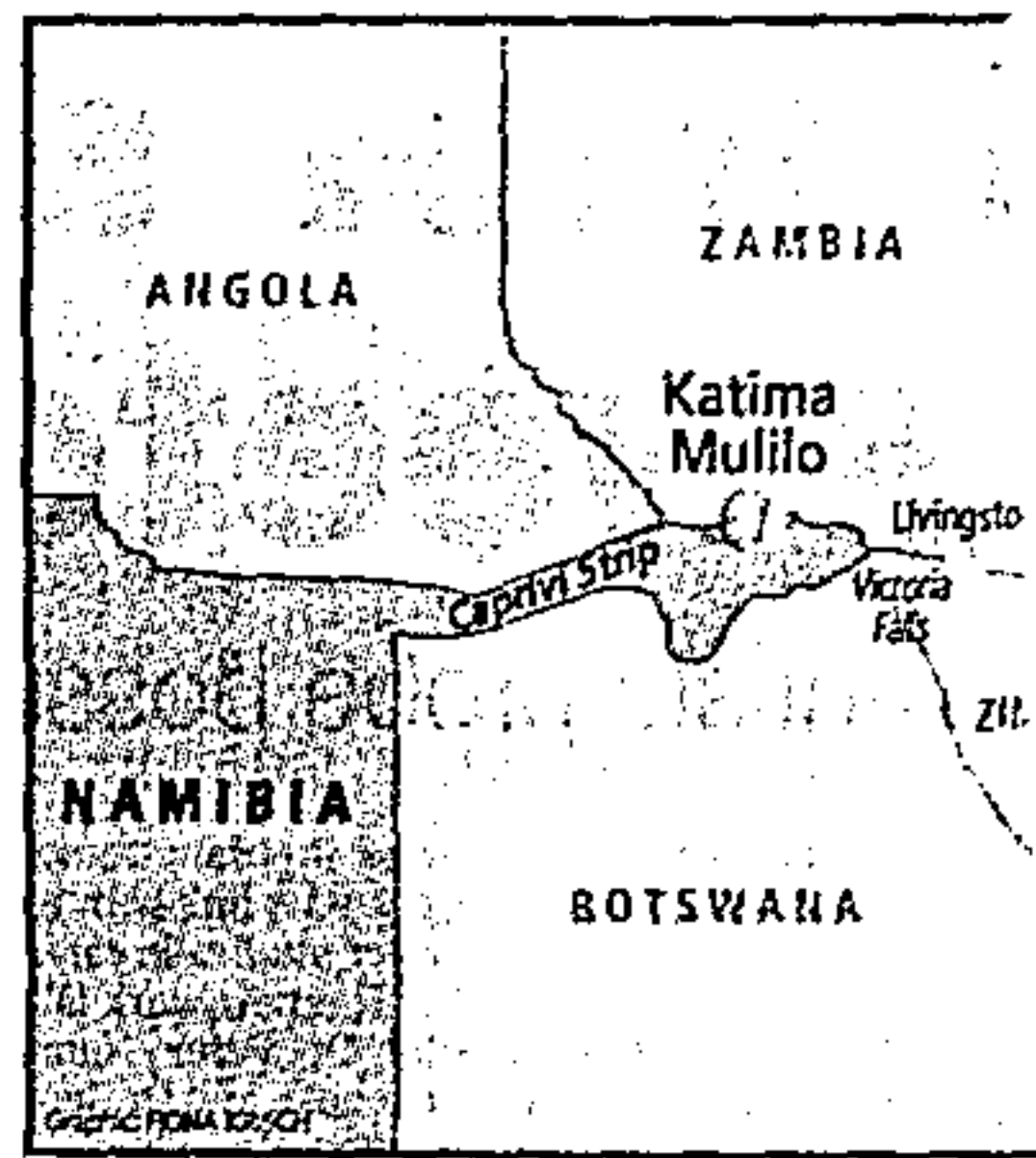


Angola
Caprivi
Botswana

Rumbles of a past scramble

(221) ST 8/8/99

Borders on the African continent, drawn arbitrarily by colonial powers in the last century, are the real reason behind the outbreak of secessionist fever in Caprivi this week, writes **JON QWELANE**



CONTEMPORARY history will probably associate Mishake Muyongo, leader of the little-known secessionist Caprivi Liberation Movement, with this week's armed insurrection in the remote bush town of Katima Mulilo.

But the reasons for the go-it-alone sentiment in the narrow landlocked strip go back many years to the colonial scramble for Africa by erstwhile European superpowers. In their rush to stake claims to African territory, the Europeans tore asunder whole populations, tribes and communities with arbitrary lines drawn on the map to demarcate which "possession" belonged to whom.

The new boundaries had a permanent and often destructive result: in South Africa, for example, a line drawn across Namaqualand made some among the area's population British subjects and others German citizens, depending on which side of the fence they found themselves.

A continuation of the same line eastwards separated the Barolong tribe of Mafeking in the northern Cape from their farms and cattle posts further up north; to this day the southern districts of Botswana are officially known as Barolong Farms. The Basotho of QwaQwa in the southern Free State and their blood relations in Lesotho suffered the same fate.

In the former German colony of South West Africa, the Ovambo were divided by the border with Angola, the section of the tribe remaining in Namibia owing allegiance to Germany and those inhabiting the other side of the fence becoming Portuguese citizens.

The African continent abounds with similar examples, where native peoples were not consulted about the demarcation of their lands and tribes. Secessionist strife has periodically erupted even for unrelated reasons, as in Biafra in 1965 and the Congo a few years earlier.

With varying degrees of validity, any of a number of the Southern African countries bordering Caprivi can lay claim to possession of the thin strip.

Each of them has a presence of Barotse, or Lozi, all of whom can accurately trace their roots back to Caprivi.



IN DISPUTE: The tiny Sedudu Island, as it is known in Botswana, or Kasikili Island, as the Namibians call it

Picture: AP

LEKOPANYE MOOKETS! Gaborone

Botswana-Namibia wrangle over island

A LONG-simmering dispute between neighbours Botswana and Namibia about the rightful ownership of a tiny river island at the confluence of the Chobe and Zambezi rivers will be settled by the International Court at The Hague in a few weeks.

It will most certainly take the judicial interpretation of the Anglo-German treaty of July 1 1890 to help settle the case, which landed in the World Court after both countries petitioned it for help earlier this year.

The fate of Sedudu Island, as Botswana has named it, and

Kasikili Island to the Namibians, will also determine finally where exactly the border between the two nations is.

Molosiwa Selepeng, spokesman in the office of President Festus Mogae, said Botswana expected a final ruling on the island to be handed down in November.

The conflict over the island has

tensions reached a peak when Namibia accused Botswana troops of occupying the disputed island illegally.

Zimbabwean President Robert Mugabe later chaired a summit which appointed a joint team of technical experts in 1992 to determine the boundary.

In the Anglo-German treaty, the border is "the centre of the main

channel of the Chobe River".

But, as the river approaches Sedudu/Kasikili, it branches off into two channels, one running to the north of the island and the other to the south.

The dispute between Botswana and Namibia is over which of the two is the "main channel" as meant by the treaty.

In 1995 the technical experts handed in their report and another summit was convened in Harare to consider the findings. But the team had failed to reach an agreement on which country was the rightful owner of the island.

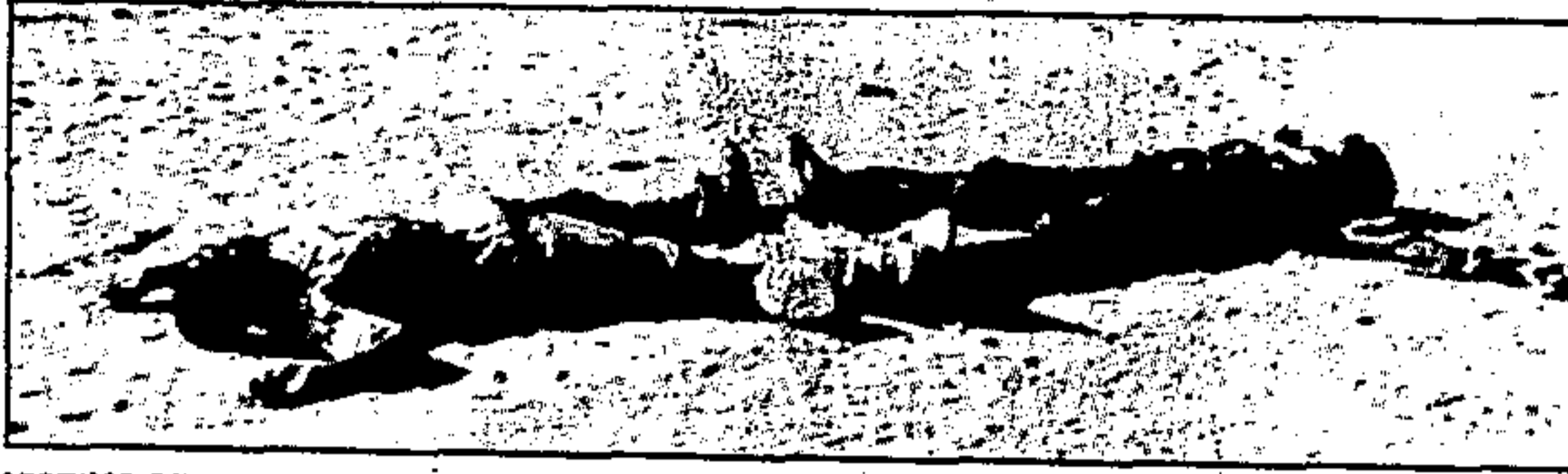
It was agreed to refer the dispute to the World Court, and both nations have pledged they will abide by its ruling.

*In the manner they are now scattered across countries—in Caprivi, in southern Zambia, in northern Botswana and western Zimbabwe—the Barotse do not make any great numbers. But, taken as the one people they once were, they make a sizable number.

Caprivi's eastern-most tip is where the borders of three countries meet—Zambia, Zimbabwe and Botswana. Immediately to its north Caprivi shares a frontier with Angola. In the west there is Namibia, of which it is part but from which it wants to secede.

In the colonial stampede for Africa's wealth, bolstered by imperial ambitions, the Germans and British concluded various agreements which guaranteed neither would go to war against the other over disputed territory. One such agreement included Germany's annexation of South West Africa, which in turn resulted in the creation of the Caprivi Strip to give the Germans easy passage to the Zambezi River.

A private agenda riding on political expediency may have been part of this week's secessionist attempt in Caprivi as disgraced former opposition leader Muyongo played his last ace in hijacking nationalist



VICTIMS OF HISTORY: Two corpses lie in a Katimo Mulilo street after the attack

Picture: AP

sentiment to revive his failed ambitions of leadership.

Muyongo's political career has seesawed dramatically.

Having held the powerful position of vice-president of Swapo for 15 years, he was expelled in 1986. He returned from exile in 1987 to become one of the organisation's fiercest critics in his new position as leader of the opposition Democratic Turnhalle Alliance, which received

R800-million in slush funds from South Africa's former National Party government for the sole purpose of fighting Swapo in Namibia's first democratic elections.

Muyongo severely embarrassed the alliance last year with clandestine visits to South Africa for meetings with as-yet unidentified people, allegedly to plot the secession of Caprivi from Namibia. On his return, the party expelled him.

He then fled to neighbouring Botswana, where he and a dozen followers were immediately arrested for illegal entry and arms possession. Charges were finally dropped when they were granted refugee status.

Muyongo has since left for Denmark, where he has political asylum—and from where he apparently orchestrated the events that led to this week's fighting.

But Muyongo may have been incidental to this week's secessionist uprising in Caprivi and, whatever his true reasons, the fact is that it was only a matter of time before one or other part of Africa erupted in such fashion.

Indeed such conflagration nearly took place between Botswana and Namibia a short while ago over the tiny island of Sedudu—or Kasikill, as the Namibians call it—in the Chobe River.

Paradoxically, those same arbitrarily drawn borders are the only effective remedy in the long run.

That much was recognised by the Organisation of African Unity at its inaugural meeting nearly 40 years ago, when the African heads of state resolved to accept the colonially drawn borders as binding.

If an exception were made, it could be taken as a precedent and result in a rash of land claims—a colonial scramble in reverse that could ignite large parts of the continent.

This is just the beginning, say Caprivi rebels

PIERRE CHANGUION: Windhoek

WHILE heavily armed separatists have threatened to launch follow-up attacks in an attempt to rip the water-rich Caprivi Strip from sub-Saharan Africa's driest country, the Namibian government has vowed it will spare no effort to ensure that its borders remain intact.

The region is still reeling after rebel attacks on a police station, a military base and a border post with Zambia in which eight security force members and five insurgents were

killed.

And the leader-in-exile of the obscure Caprivi Liberation Army, Mishake Muyongo, said in a telephone interview from Denmark late this week that the clashes were "just the beginning".

Continuing his threats, that have led to a Namibian request for the revocation of his Danish asylum status, Muyongo said the secessionists were "prepared to sacrifice our lives in order to get our freedom".

The former Namibian presidential candidate and parliamentary opposition leader bases his territorial dispute and subsequent rebellion

on accusations that the government has not honoured a 1964 pledge that Caprivians would be offered a chance to determine their future.

He charged that the region had been neglected, its inhabitants marginalised and subjected to unemployment, since the South West African People's Organisation (Swapo) took power at independence from South Africa in 1990.

He claimed that most Caprivians had "nothing in common" with other Namibians and were in favour of declaring an independent state.

Muyongo denied reports that members of Angola's rebel Unita

movement, Zambian separatists and Botswana sympathisers had joined the ranks of his rebels.

The Namibian government said it was ready to quash further outbreaks of insurrection and warned that captured perpetrators would be tried for treason.

In a statement, the government pledged to protect law-abiding citizens and foreigners, including tourists, as well as their property.

It welcomed "the understanding and support" expressed by the governments of South Africa and Botswana, but said that the rebellion was small enough to be con-

tained without external help.

The prevailing state of emergency and ensuing spate of arrests of suspected secessionist accomplices has added to the near-desertion of the regional capital, Katima Mulilo, despite government assurances that the heavy security presence was not aimed at intimidating innocent civilians.

All Namibia's major opposition parties have condemned the revolt, including the Democratic Turnhalle Alliance, from which Muyongo was expelled when his secessionist sentiments were exposed about a year ago.

Nujoma vows to crush Caprivi separatists

Katima Mulilo, Namibia - President Sam Nujoma has vowed to crush an armed separatist movement that last week mounted an assault on this town, leaving 16 people dead.

The fighting last Monday in the remote Caprivi Strip in south-central Africa began when a small group of lightly armed secessionists launched an attack to seize the military base in Katima Mulilo, the police station and briefly occupied the local offices of the Namibian

Broadcasting Corporation.

In addition to the dead, 25 people were wounded, many of them civilians caught in a cross-fire.

"We will combat and destroy the secessionists, and we will do so without mercy," Mr Nujoma told a rally in the town on Saturday.

He said his government suspected the secessionists, who want the Caprivi to break away from Namibia, received backing from the little-known Barotseland Patriotic Front in Zambia and may have been sup-

plied with arms by the Angolan rebel movement Unita.

With the help of Angolan and Zambian authorities, Mr Nujoma said his government intended to pursue the secessionist group to wherever it is hiding out.

An estimated 300 people detained under the state of emergency regulations that Mr Nujoma imposed are being held incommunicado at the Grootfontein military base, 1 000 km west of Katima Mulilo, as prisoners of war.

Namibian security forces have also arrested a number of police officers attached to the local police station, local public servants, as well as three top employees of the local Namibian Broadcasting Corporation's offices.

Meanwhile Mishake Muyongo, the leader of the separatist movement, said from Denmark where he has been granted asylum that his movement would prevail.

"This is only the beginning," he warned. - Sapa-AP

ARLT 9/18/99

(221)

Barotse, Caprivi issues intertwined

Human rights groups call on Namibia and Zambia to listen to and act on concerns to avoid uprising

Christof Maletsky

WINDHOEK — Barotse Patriotic Front leader Imasiku Mutangelwa, who has been linked to the Caprivi Strip unrest in Namibia, will remain holed up at the SA high commissioner's residence in Lusaka until Zambian and SA authorities reach an agreement on his status.

Mutangelwa eluded police last week and sought refuge at the residence after being told to report to the police over his statement that Zambian Lozis were going to reinforce the Caprivi secessionists. He has allegedly pledged support for Caprivi's secessionists.

Acting SA high commissioner in Windhoek, Adriaan Smuts, confirmed that SA and Zambia were discussing Mutangelwa's fate. Smuts said the high commission

would ask the government to grant Mutangelwa his "normal" rights.

"We want to find out why the authorities are looking for him and what the charges against him are," Smuts said.

Earlier, Zambian police officers searched Mu-

tangelwa's home and removed several documents.

The Barotse Cultural Association's secretary for information and publicity, Mutungulu Wanga, said the Caprivi and Barotseland issues of self-determination had the same goals. Wanga said Mutangelwa merely expressed his opinion of a cause. "Our position is that people in Caprivi, just like those in Barotseland, need to be governed with their consent," he said.

In a letter to the SA high commission in Lusaka, Mutangelwa said the case of Caprivi Strip was "intertwined" with that of Barotseland and he felt duty bound to voice his concern. He said he was prepared to surrender on certain conditions, one of which was that Zambia allow free and open debate on self-termination in Barotseland.

Inter-Africa Network for Human Rights and Development executive director Ngande Mwanajiti said the Zambian and Namibian governments should acknowledge the political and economic problems among the Barotse and in the Caprivi.

Mwanajiti said degeneration or escalation should be avoided. "Specifically the two governments should meet to resolve the now obvious problem, based on international law and the will of the people."

He said the countries should summon the political

will to avoid further military confrontation in the Caprivi and an uprising in Zambia's western Barotseland by listening and acting on the concerns raised.

Mwanajiti said it was no secret that the Barotse Patriotic Front in Zambia had been in constant touch with its colleagues in Caprivi due to ethnic ties.

In Windhoek the National Society for Human Rights accused Namibia's security forces of widespread human rights abuses in Caprivi.

The organisation's director, Phil ya Nangoloh, said allegations were pouring into their offices that the state of emergency proclaimed by President Sam Nujoma last week in Caprivi was being abused by the security forces. He said about 300 detained separatists and other people rounded up for questioning had been subjected to "Gestapo" tactics.

Medical personnel in Katima Mulilo confirmed human rights violations.

The Namibian Defence Force rejected the allegations. "It is not happening. No torture is allowed and no torture is exercised," chief of staff Martin Shalli said. He did say, however, that reports of brutality were being investigated and two members of the security forces had faced disciplinary action for beating up a civilian who had violated the curfew.

(221) PD 12/8/99

Namibia admits to Caprivi abuses

Emergency denies detainees access to lawyers

Christof Maletsky

WINDHOEK — The Namibian government has admitted its security forces committed human rights abuses in the Caprivi Region and promised to put an end to "mistakes" made in the wake of a separatist attack there last week.

Defence Minister Erkki Nghimtina said: "Definitely we made some mistakes regarding human rights violations." However, he said most incidents took place in the first few days after the August 2 separatist attack and could be attributed to emotions running high after police officers and soldiers were shot, killed and wounded by rebels.

Health officials at Katima Mulilo, where fighting took place, also confirmed this week that the police, paramilitary and army committed human rights abuses. They said people had been shot in their homes, sjambokked, beaten with sticks and forced to undergo other forms of torture.

While promising that security force members who took extrajudicial actions would have to face the law, Nghimtina did not say whether a system had been put in place to ensure no further human rights violations occurred.

Namibian Defence Force chief of staff Martin Shalli said there was no need for an independent group to monitor the security forces because they could check on it themselves.

He said the government was learning how to handle a state of emergency.

It appears, however, that Nghimtina and the security forces are still not convinced that suspects detained under the state of emergency have the right to see a lawyer.

Nghimtina said the security forces

first had to interrogate suspects before they could let them see lawyers, arguing that the constitutional rule to take them to court within two days is no longer in force in the Caprivi region.

Legal experts have made it clear that suspects — even those detained under emergency regulations — had the right to see a lawyer.

The chairman of the advisory board on the state of emergency, Judge Simpson Mtambanengwe, said security forces were not allowed to deny detainees access to lawyers.

This was mandatory in terms of the Namibian constitution, while the emergency regulations also stated that lawyers had the right to have access to detainees, Mtambanengwe explained.

Nghimtina said the government hoped the situation would normalise soon so that the state of emergency could be lifted "within the next week or two".

Meanwhile, Charles Mubambe reports from Lusaka that the leader of Zambia's Barotse Patriotic Front, Mutangelwa Imasiku, holed up at the residence of the SA High Commissioner, is demanding that President Frederick Chiluba's government hold a referendum on the matter of self-determination for Barotseland, under the auspices of the United Nations.

Imasiku sought refuge at the residence of SA high commissioner Walter Themba Thabethe shortly after he made a public statement pledging support from the Lozi people of Western province in Zambia for their fellow tribespeople in the Caprivi Strip.

Imasiku also called for the release of Caprivians detained without trial in Zambian jails.

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REST OF AFRICA

Namibia to release two detainees

Christof Maletsky

WINDHOEK — The Namibian government has agreed to release two detained men after their lawyers challenged the imposition of the countrywide state of emergency.

The successful high court application on Monday is understood to have led to the release of a number of people detained outside the Caprivi Strip. The Legal Assistance Centre,

Court rules emergency not countrywide

acting on behalf of two men detained in the former Ovambo-land, demanded the release of its clients. They were arrested in Ongwediva on August 7 while visiting their girlfriends.

Government lawyers insisted security forces could use wide-ranging powers — acquired under the emergency after the uprising by secessionist rebels in

Caprivi — throughout Namibia.

The security forces can detain people indefinitely, enter premises without a warrant, and confiscate material without following legal procedure.

The Legal Assistance Centre wanted the court to declare as unlawful "the purported extension of the operation or the emergency regulations" to areas

outside the Caprivi Strip.

Meanwhile, the leader of the Barotse Patriotic Front in Zambia, Imasiku Mutangelwa, is still in police custody in Lusaka after his arrest on Friday. Mutangelwa, who supported the Caprivi secessionists, fled to the Lusaka residence of SA's high commissioner to Zambia after being told police were looking for him.

SA has insisted it made an independent, unforced decision not to grant him asylum.

BD18/8/99

(22)

Namibia brings some

Caprivi suspects to court

to all
within

WINDHOEK. — Namibia yesterday began prosecuting some of the estimated 4,000 people arrested after a separatist attack on the country's remote Caprivi region amid allegations of army abuse against the local civilian population.

Public radio said a group of detainees would appear in a court in Grootfontein later yesterday.

Fourteen people died, including six policemen and soldiers, after an attack on August 2 on the country's regional capital, Caprivi, prompting Namibian President Sam Nujoma to declare a state of emergency and temporarily close the region's borders.

Members of Caprivi's Lozi tribe want autonomy from Windhoek and their demands for an independent state have been echoed by Barotse kinsmen in neighbouring Zambia, sparking fears of wider regional instability.

Human rights groups allege security forces have tortured suspected separatist sympathisers. On Friday newspapers carried pictures of a brutally beat-

en former member of Namibia's parliament, Geoffrey Mwillima. The army has linked him to Mishake Muyongo, the secessionist leader who claimed responsibility for organising the attack and who now lives in exile in Denmark.

The government conceded two weeks ago that there may have been cases of assault by its forces, but has since denied this. Army chief of staff Maj-Gen Martin Shalli said after the pictures of Mwillima's torture were published: "If you want to blame anybody, blame Muyongo."

"We were provoked and we reacted the way we did and this must serve as a reminder to those terrorists out there."

Seven Angolan Unita rebels were also arrested under the state of emergency in the Caprivi region, where about 96 000 of Namibia's total population of 1.6-million live. Shalli said they had been deported back to Angola.

The presence of Angolan rebel fighters has fuelled fear of wider fallout from the Caprivi. — Reuter.

80 24/8/99

African war 'virus' spreads to Caprivi

mtg 6-12/8/99

Tangeni Amupadhi in Windhoek and Howard Barrell in Cape Town

The contagion of war in Central Africa this week infected yet another country — this time South Africa's immediate neighbour, Namibia. And regional security experts have warned that President Sam Nujoma's Swapo government could find itself having to wage an anti-guerrilla struggle it is ill-equipped to fight.

How serious the conflict becomes between secessionists in the Caprivi Strip region of Namibia and the government in Windhoek hinges on the intentions of the Angolan rebel movement, Unita, which is believed to be backing the rebels.

The fighting capabilities of the Caprivi separatists themselves, and ethnic solidarity between the Lozi-speaking clans of the Caprivi and their tribal relatives in neighbouring Angola and Zambia, will also help determine the seriousness of the challenge facing Nujoma.

In the early hours of Monday morning, guerrillas of the secessionist Caprivi Liberation Army (CLA) launched attacks on a military base at Mpacha airport, and the police station and Namibian Broadcasting Corporation radio centre in Katima Mulilo, the regional capital.

Armed with assault rifles, the separatist rebels killed five police officers and three soldiers, and wounded more than a dozen security force personnel. By the end of the day when the armed forces had established full control over the regional capital, five separatists had been killed and eight captured.

Regional security analysts are asking two key military questions about the outbreak of violence this week. One is: does the CLA have sufficient and adequately trained guerrillas to sustain a string of similar attacks in the medium term? The second is: what is the game plan of the Angolan rebel movement, Unita, in the support it has lent the CLA?

Unita has been allied to the rebels fighting to topple President Laurent Kabila's regime in the Democratic Republic of Congo, which is being propped up by troops sent by the governments of Angola, Zimbabwe and Namibia.

The minimal information available indicates that between 30 and 40 CLA guerrillas are former members of the South West African Territory Force who saw action against Swapo in the 1980s. They are well-trained, battle-hardened fighters. But the quality of the remaining "one or two hundred" is unknown.

The current consensus among regional security experts appears to be that Unita's aim in backing the CLA is probably limited to "putting a shot across Nujoma's bows", in the words of one security analyst. It is intended as a "warning to Nujoma not to give the Angolan government transit across Namibian territory or the use of Namibian military facilities in its fight against Unita".

But another security analyst warned that Unita might decide that it should place far stiffer pressure on Nujoma. In this case, Uni-

ta's intentions would be to force Nujoma to withdraw Namibian military support for Kabila in the Democratic Republic of Congo and to make it impossible for Namibia to back the embattled Angolan government.

Unita leader Jonas Savimbi is believed to be capable of putting a battalion of his own fighters into Caprivi, which could tie the bulk of Namibia's security forces up in a debilitating counter-insurgency campaign which they have little capacity to fight.

Nujoma has also been among the most vocal backers of Angola's MPLA government. Earlier this year, he, President Robert Mugabe of Zimbabwe and Kabila signed up to an alliance with Angolan President José Eduardo dos Santos. Unconfirmed reports suggest Nujoma agreed earlier this year to let Angola use Namibian territory in its war against Unita, but that he has since got cold feet about meeting his obligations.

Caprivi straddles a vital supply route for foodstuffs and other commodities — though, as far as can be ascertained, not armaments — for Unita. Sources report the existence of large warehouses in Caprivi where goods are stored before being smuggled across the border into Angola and onwards to Unita-controlled areas.

Caprivan separatists have also established close links with their Lozi-speaking kith and kin in Angola and Zambia. And the CLA is backed openly by a similar Lozi secessionist group in Zambia, the Barotse Patriotic Front.

The issue of Caprivan secession has been gestating for many years — since long before Namibia achieved independence in 1990.

The rebellion is led by Mishake Muyongo, who was until last year the leader of the main opposition party in Namibia, the Democratic Turnhalle Alliance. Muyongo was also the vice-president of Swapo for 16 years to 1980, until he fell out with other leaders.

Muyongo claims a merger agreement signed in 1964 between Swapo and the Caprivi African National Union, of which Muyongo was a founder member, forms the basis of rebel demand for Caprivi secession. Swapo denies an agreement stating that Caprivi would get independent statehood.

The Caprivi is a 28 000km² finger of land that the Germans annexed to try to link South West Africa to their colony, Tanganyika, in East Africa. During the colonial era, it was administered from Pretoria. Until this year, some Namibian laws did not apply there.

Although Caprivan secession was a heated issue in the mid-1980s it did not resurface until last year when a group of Namibians fled to Botswana after newspapers revealed Muyongo had military training camps in the territory.

When Muyongo was granted political asylum and Botswana asked that he be relocated to a third country in order to safeguard its lukewarm relationship with Namibia, Namibians thought the secessionist campaign was over. Security forces and Namibia's intelligence community were thus caught unawares this week. Muyongo is now based in Denmark.

Namibian farmers march over 'unfair' land reforms

Christof Maletsky

WINDHOEK — Close to 800 communal farmers from across Namibia, impatient with the pace of land reform and alleging unfair land management policies, marched on State House yesterday.

Namibia National Farmers' Union president Gabes Shihpo said the farmers decided to seek an audience with President Sam Nujoma to demand that he intervene in their dispute with the ministry. However, Nujoma left for Algeria a

day earlier and they went to Prime Minister Hage Geingob.

The march went ahead amid efforts by government to stop it because it would harm the ruling Swapo party's election campaign. Namibians are going to the polls in December for their third presidential and general elections while Swapo promised people land during the 1994 elections.

The government has spent R80m on resettlement programmes over the past four years but the farmers accuse it of corrup-

tion with most of those who benefited being either Swapo supporters or relatives of senior officials.

Communal farmers have criticised the lands, resettlement and rehabilitation which they allege ignored their "constructive proposals" on resettlement policies and communal land administration.

The three key points raised with the president were the need to speed up land reform, introduction of mechanisms for fair and democratic land management, and ensuring land tenure security and

management.

"We are totally disappointed by the ill-conceived and irrelevant content of the existing legislation on land reform and proposed legislation on communal land administration," Shihpo told Geingob in handing over a petition.

He said farmers remained disappointed with the "ill-conceived and 'irrelevant' content of legislation on land reform and proposed legislation on communal land administration.

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Communal farmers eye land barons

Christof Maletsky

WINDHOEK — Namibian communal farmers are angered by absentee land barons who are underutilising the land, and have called on government to impose heavy taxes on them.

Namibia National Farmers' Union President Gabes Shihepo said absentee landlords and farmers who owned large farms should be heavily taxed to force them to sell their land so that it could be redistributed.

Government was spending too much buying land for resettlement. Some landlords needed to be forced to sell their land cheaply, he said. Most absentee land barons were from Germany and used their farms for hunting only.

Shihepo said it was time large farm owners demonstrated the spirit of reconciliation. "We want to see action and not rhetoric," he said.

Namibia's national land policy calls for land taxation to discourage the ownership of "excessive areas" by individuals. The tax will be introduced to ensure that land is used to its "full economic potential".

The Namibia Human Development Report states commercial agriculture covers 36,2-million hectares in Namibia while communal areas cover 33,5-million hectares, of which 10-million hectares are unused.

On commercial land, about 4 000 mostly white farmers contribute about 5% of Namibia's gross domestic product (GDP), 90% of the agricultural GDP and 10% of exports, and employ about 8% of the labour force. Communal areas support about 140 000 families and about 29% of the labour force. They contribute less than 4% to GDP.

However, while the contribution of commercial agriculture to GDP has been declining since 1981, communal agriculture has been expanding its output.

(221)

BD 9/9/99

Court throws out Herero claim

Christof Maletsky

(221)

WINDHOEK — The International Court of Justice has rejected an attempt by Namibian Hereros to take the German government to The Hague in a bid to win reparations for the 1904-1907 war.

Laurence Blairon, information officer at the World Court, said yesterday the Hereros under Paramount Chief Kuaima Riruako stand no chance of their case being heard.

"Only states may be parties in contentious cases before the International Court of Justice and hence submit cases to it against other states.... Private per-

sons (or groups), companies and international organisations (governmental or nongovernmental) do not have access to contentious proceedings at the court," Blairon said.

Riruako said they had decided to approach the World Court after attempts to negotiate with the German government failed.

A number of Hereros were the victims of a ruthless extermination policy carried out by the German military chief, Gen von Trotha between 1904-1907. The German government has, in the past, described the war as a dark chapter in its history.

BD 9/9/99

Namibian children starve as relief funds are cut by R50m

TABBY MOYO

(221)

ET (AR) 28/10/99

Windhoek - A serious lack of funds had forced the Namibian government to cut back on its drought relief expenditure by over R50 million, Stan Webster, the agricultural minister, told parliament this week.

As a result of the dire financial straits, the government had also reduced the number of people who qualified to receive food aid.

Various school feeding programmes for children under six years were also severely affected by the lack of funds.

Namibia has seen a steep decline in donor aid for drought relief programmes. Webster said the government had budgeted to spend R71 million during the 1998-99 financial year but the amount had been slashed to a mere R20 million due to lack of funds.

The number of Namibians who had registered to receive food aid under the drought relief scheme was close to 350 000. However, this figure could be cut below 300 000.

Webster said the cabinet had decided that the drought aid scheme should be implemented through food distribution and food-for-work schemes for all Namibians classified as "vulnerable". Seed vouchers for farmers and water supply programmes would also be established.

The government had decided to terminate subsidies on fodder and licks, which it said encouraged certain farmers to retain excessive livestock rather than market them as a precautionary measure only.

It was also recommended that only boreholes that had dried out, replacement boreholes and new boreholes in areas where drought conditions prevailed would qualify for assistance.

At the beginning of the financial year the government launched an appeal for aid from the international community to help finance the drought aid scheme.

Namibia had hoped to raise the bulk of the R70 million needed for drought relief from the international community - Independent Foreign Service

AIDS biggest killer in prisons

Christof Maletsky

WINDHOEK — HIV/AIDS is the main cause of death in Namibian prisons, accounting for about half the deaths in prisons last year alone, says the annual report of the prisons and correctional services ministry.

"The death rate has increased two-fold, mostly arising from people who are already infected with HIV/AIDS being admitted to prison," the report said.

It said that of 23 prisoners who died from various causes last year, 12 deaths were due to AIDS-related diseases including tuberculosis and lung sickness.

At the beginning of 1998 there were

(221) 80 HIV/AIDS patients in Namibia's 13 prisons and the number increased to 95 at the end of the year. (92)

Compared with 1997, the number of newly diagnosed prisoners with HIV/AIDS increased threefold.

Deputy Minister of Prisons and Correctional Services Michaela Hubschle described the transmission of HIV/AIDS in prisons as a matter of controversy.

"The activities in prisons that spread HIV, notably sex and drug abuse, are widely considered as criminal within the prison environment. When these practices are discovered, they are usually met with disciplinary measures, not health measures," Hubschle said.

Namibian economy is likely to grow modestly

BD 12/11/99 (221A)

Christof Maletsky

WINDHOEK — The Namibian economy is projected to grow modestly this year, amid a general improvement in emerging markets.

Maritjie van Zyl of Investec Guinness Flight Namibia says in a recent report that although Namibia's outlook is not as rosy as that of some neighbours, it can continue to expect an inflation rate of less than 10%, low interest rates and further gains in commodity prices.

Investec maintains there is clear evidence global demand is recovering from its financial crises. "This is good news for Namibia's balance of payments and commodities," she says.

Emerging markets in particular have done well this year and Van Zyl expects to see continued good performance in the Namibian and SA markets.

However, Investec remains concerned about the growing deficit, particularly since more than 30% of the government's income was derived from the Southern African Customs Union which is also likely to be affected by the SA/EU trade agreement.

Van Zyl says also that the recent increases in the petrol price may have an effect on inflation, while the economic

implications of HIV/AIDS are grave. Estimates are that one-in-five Namibians (or about 180 000) are now HIV positive.

Quoting the calculations of the World Health Organisation, she suggests the cost of the virus could climb as high as 16% of GDP as early as 2001.

"Even bearing these rather gloomy projections in mind, Namibia is still poised for growth and our market looks healthy. It is evident the commodity cycle has turned. Namibia earns a substantial amount from commodities, especially diamonds," she says.

Over the past quarter Investec Equity Fund Namibia followed the Namibian Stock Exchange to lose 4,7%. Its performance for the year shows positive returns of 32,4%. Investec's Managed Fund Namibia returned 4% for the quarter, and 19,9% for the year.

Van Zyl says market conditions have led some Investec fund managers to decrease exposure to equities.

"The market is entering a difficult period, in which short-term considerations like weak earnings and Y2K fears might affect the performance of unit trusts and pension funds," says Van Zyl.

Over the longer term, she argues, it will give rise to solid buying opportunities, which seldom occur.

Intimidation is rife in Namibia, says EU

BD 19/11/99 (221)

Swapo violence against members of opposition causes concern

Christof Maletsky

WINDHOEK — A European Union (EU) observer has confirmed some incidents of political intimidation by the ruling South West African People's Organisation (Swapo) party members, especially against the newly-formed political party, the Congress of Democrats (CoD).

Finnish EU observer Pekka Peltola said, ahead of elections on November 30 and December 1, that intimidation against Ben Ulenga's CoD by Swapo is rife — especially in the far northern regions of the country.

Peltola, who visited the northern parts of the country last week, said that despite rampant intimidation, there is still room for the situation to be corrected.

Peltola is one of three EU observers in the country. Seventeen others are expected to arrive in the country four days before the country's third presidential and general elections.

His remarks came just as the National Society for Human Rights released a report highlighting incidents of political intimidation by Swapo against CoD and the main opposition Democratic Turnhalle Alliance in the far north.

The society showed secretly recorded video footage of some incidents of intimidation by the ruling party against CoD.

The video showed how a CoD political activist in the Omusati region, David Shayelamo, was beaten on the back with a brick by Willy Kaapanda Iyambo, a Swapo activist.

Peltola said the former Ovambo land was the ruling party's stronghold with nearly 100% of the votes going to them in the two previous elections in 1989 and 1994, and that it was difficult for its supporters to accept the new challenges.

The society's executive director, Phil ya Nangolo, said a new dimension — marked by a systematic campaign of apartheid-era smear tactics and psychological warfare — had been introduced into the Namibian political discourse since March.

"Such tactics and psychological intimidation, which appeared to have an objective of instilling and/or spreading public fear and apprehension, first came to the fore on 18 April 1999," he said.

He alleged that on 18 April, President Sam Nujoma, at a public rally held in Windhoek, "sternly"

warned against "those elements who plan to undermine the peace and stability of the country" as well as "dark forces masquerading under different guises — in the name of democracy and freedom".

The director alleged that Nujoma told a Swapo central committee recently that CoD leaders were rebellious and must be countered with all machinery at the ruling party's disposal.

However, the electoral commission says there has been a drop in the incidence of intimidation and disruption of rallies after the adoption of certain resolutions during a consultative meeting held last week with political parties.

The consultative meeting agreed that political parties shall, where possible, liaise with each other to ensure that their rallies are held at the same place, date and time.

Furthermore, a distance of 500m shall be maintained between any two parties' rallies, demonstrations and meetings; parties shall notify the police in advance about gatherings and parties shall seek to encourage their members, sympathisers and supporters to refrain from any action that may violate the code of conduct.

Namibian voters' roll does not add up, says UN

Its figures show 'an unlikely' 99% of those eligible registered

WINDHOEK — On the eve of Namibia's third democratic election, electoral officials brushed off statistics indicating there were too many names on voters' lists.

Joram Rukame, the elections director, said on Monday that 878 000 people had registered to vote, rising from a provisional figure of less than 850 000. The numbers have been disputed by the UN Development Programme (UNDP).

Latest UNDP calculations put Namibia's population at 1,71-million people, of which 883 000 were eligible to vote. Oddvar Jakobssen, a senior UNDP official, said that meant 99% of eligible voters had registered, which he said was extremely unlikely.

About 635 000 people registered to vote in 1994, 38% fewer than this year.

Rukame said that the figures had not been cross-checked but that no complaints have been received. "Nobody said there is double registration. We are ready to give Namibia what (it) deserves — a good election."

Meanwhile, voting began smoothly yesterday. Large numbers of people turned out at polling stations in the Khomas region. Polling was set to run yesterday and today.

Voters will not directly choose the president but have two separate votes, for a party and for a candidate, under a proportional representation system.

Eight parties are contesting the 72 seats in the National Assembly and four candidates are running for president.

Helmuth Isaacks, presiding officer at the Central Community Hall polling station in the Katutura central constituency, said yesterday morning: "We expect the numbers of people to increase later in the day as we are still waiting for more voters to turn up."

He said there were no problems with party agents overseeing the process and there were no other disturbances.

But earlier Elizabeth Amukugo, spokesman for the opposition Congress of Democrats (COD) par-

ty, said the fact that voters' rolls would not be distributed to the country's polling stations opened the electoral process to abuse.

She accused the Electoral Commission of doing nothing to address repeated intimidation of opposition parties by supporters of the ruling South West Africa People's Organisation (Swapo), which led Namibia's struggle for independence from SA.

"We realise the commission is a toothless bulldog," she said.

With Swapo's victory a foregone conclusion, interest has focused on whether it will retain its two-thirds majority in parliament. Analysts say the COD may replace the Democratic Turnhalle Alliance as the official opposition.

The COD was formed this year by Ben Ulenga, a former Swapo stalwart. He quit the party because of its decision to change the constitution to allow President Sam Nujoma to serve a third five-year term, and the sending in of troops to the Democratic Republic of Congo. — Sapa-AP.

BD 1/12/99 (221)

TEN years ago, Louis Pienaar, Namibia's last colonial governor, met for an hour behind closed doors with his erstwhile arch enemy, Swapo leader Sam Nujoma, in the Tintenpalast government offices on a hillock overlooking the Windhoek city centre.

When they emerged from their tête-à-tête, they shook hands and Pienaar said to Nujoma: "I am handing this country over to you, and you must look well after it or I will come back and take it away again."

The formal handover was, in fact, performed by South Africa's last white head of state, F W de Klerk, and ratified by then UN Secretary-General Javier Perez de Cuellar before a powerful array of world leaders.

This week, Namibians went to the polls for the third time since the ground-breaking election of 1989.

So, has Nujoma looked well after the country in that time?

On balance, the answer must be a resounding yes. The economy has been well-run and Namibians are now enjoying greater peace and prosperity than ever before.

Nujoma himself is a satisfied man. "There have been no disappointments at all since we came to power, and the people of Namibia have confidence in the Swapo government. What we all must do now is work harder and build a bright future," he said in an interview this week.

While Nujoma conceded that the Caprivi uprising of five months ago was a worry, he described this as "a small affair by [former opposition leader Mishake] Muyongo, but it was only a few days and it was quickly put down".

Looking at the past 10 years, there is much to back up Nujoma's view:

- The racial bloodbath which many skittish whites had predicted as a result of "communist" rule never happened; Swapo certainly never had a communist agenda. On the contrary, race relations in the country are much better today than at any other time;

- There is a visible programme to uplift the lives of black Namibians and the evidence is plentiful in Katutura and Wanaheda in Windhoek. The shacks are gradually giving way to basic housing units. The far north, whose economy during apartheid rule depended on the presence of the army, is now a fairly thriving entity;

- Namibia is an important producer of top-class diamonds and uranium, among other minerals. This mining is flourishing as a partnership between the government and the private sector. Other mining concerns, such as the gold and copper operations around Tsumeb, are private-sector operations;

- White farmers, initially jittery, are breathing a lot easier as fears of wide-scale nationalisation of land and farms have failed to materialise. Agriculture and fishing are booming. Namibia is one of the world's top 10 fishing countries;

- Tourism has picked up markedly in the past decade, and Air Namibia now operates weekly flights between Frankfurt and Windhoek, with the majority of overseas visitors coming from Europe and a sizeable



LIVES UPLIFTED: Herero women on their way to vote in Katutura

Life according to Nujoma, Chapter Three

ST 5/12/99

Namibians voted in their third democratic election this week. JON QWELANE weighs up the performance of President Sam Nujoma, who will soon begin his third term as president

(221)

number from the Far East.

Against this relatively impressive background, however, are a few worrisome black marks which indicate an intoxication with power.

Many voters canvassed at random at various polling stations this week pointed to one common sore point: Swapo's "abuse" of its two-thirds parliamentary majority to amend the constitution to give Nujoma a third term of office. So opposed to this "totally undemocratic" move was former Robben Island prisoner and trade union leader Ben Ulenga, that he immediately resigned as a deputy minister and formed a new party to counter Swapo's "corruption". And political analyst Jean Sutherland believes Swapo "is not the same party that it used to be, at least at leadership level".

Sutherland has no doubt that the party will again emerge victorious at the polls, thanks to its grassroots support mainly in its rural base, the Ovambo-speaking north.

"But it is also true that many people in the Cabinet are un-

happy, but dare not speak out because they have nowhere else to go if they should leave the party and the government.

"The president is less accessible than in the past, but what will keep the party going for a long time is the umbilical cord between the northern voters and Swapo, and their blind loyalty — especially to the president," she says.

'It is true that many people in the Cabinet are unhappy, but dare not speak out'

Another blot on Swapo's copybook — one that threatens to bleed the national coffers dry — is Namibia's involvement in the civil war in the Congo. So controversial has Namibia's entry been into this conflict that the government has imposed a blackout on news of its involvement.

Relations between the Swapo government and the media have

cooled markedly, in contrast to the heady days when journalists were feted and granted interviews fairly easily.

One of the earliest white Namibians to declare her sympathies for Swapo's liberation struggle was the award-winning Gwen Lister, perhaps the country's most courageous — and most harassed — journalist during the colonial days. The founding editor of The Namibian newspaper, one of the country's biggest dailies, Lister was as resolute in her defiance and condemnation of South Africa's occupation of Namibia as she has been of Swapo's excesses since it assumed power. Word in Windhoek's social and political circles

is that Lister has now been cold-shouldered by many in Swapo, but that her newspaper continues to campaign as vigorously as it always has.

Also disturbing has been Nujoma's desire for comforts that may be disproportionate for a country of Namibia's size and wealth.

A "presidential village" is due to be constructed shortly, and

Democratic elections leave marks on Africa

PRESIDENT Sam Nujoma must be thankful that the "indelible" ink used by the Namibian Elections Directorate was no more than the ordinary variety used on stamp pads, otherwise he would have had twice as much trouble as the average voter removing the ink from his thumbs.

Nujoma arrived at Suiderhof Primary School with his wife, Theopoldine, to be joined by his mother, Helvi Kondombolo, who was driven to the polling station by Nujoma's son Hiskia.

The president was the first inside the polling station and, after positively identifying himself and satisfying the verification process that he was an eligible voter, he was asked to dip his left thumb into a small pot of "indelible" ink. He plunged his right thumb in and officials told him he could vote only if his left thumb had the ink marks.

He obeyed — and plunged his left thumb so deep inside the bottle that ink rolled freely down to his wrist.

South Africans who went through the indelible-ink experience during the last general elections know that it was almost impossible to remove the marks, as the ink stayed for weeks on the cuticle and thumbnail.

Indeed, in Windhoek this week, Botswana's high commissioner, Edwin Matenge, attested to the durability of the stains — his thumbs were stained slightly more than a month ago, when his country went to the polls.

In Namibia, though, it took some sceptical souls to demonstrate that the "indelible" ink could be easily washed away in seconds using water and ordinary soap. The discovery sent many relieved voters to the taps, but also opened a new avenue of heated controversy.

Opposition parties made huge capital out of the washable ink. The Democratic Turnhalle Alliance charged that many Swapo voters had as many as four identity cards — meaning that they could vote as many as four times.

will see Nujoma vacate the luxurious State House for even greater splendour in another part of Windhoek. Hard-pressed Namibians will have to dig deep into their shallow pockets for the R180-million it will cost to build the presidential Xanadu.

Nujoma also has a weakness for exaggerated grandeur where ever he travels around the country, and his sortie this week from his official residence to Suiderhof Primary School, where he cast his vote, serves

as an example of his extravagance. His big black Mercedes-Benz was accompanied by nine other black Mercs. That was besides the four traffic police cars and six police motorcyclists who cleared and led the way from his home to the nearby school.

Nujoma's motorcade would have been incomplete without the obligatory troop of soldiers in camouflage fatigues, huddled in the back of a 4x4 vehicle, and two minibuses full of policemen.

Each soldier carried an automatic machine gun and the policemen packed pistols at their hips, while the presidential bodyguards — occupants of the other Mercedes-Benzes, 20 men hiding their eyes behind dark glasses — showed ominous bulges under their jackets.

Yet Swapo seems destined to remain in power for a long while yet, because tribal sentiment runs deep in Namibia's far north — Swapo's traditional stronghold and Nujoma's birthplace.

Swapo wins

landslide victory

ET 7/12/99 (221)

WINDHOEK: Namibian President Sam Nujoma and his ruling South West Africa People's Organisation (Swapo) won landslide victories in the country's third all-race elections last week, final results confirmed yesterday.

The party won 76% of the parliamentary ballot, two percent more than in 1994 and well above the two-thirds majority needed to change the constitution.

Swapo easily fended off a challenge from the new Congress of Democrats, led by former senior Swapo official Ben Ulenga, who had hoped to tap voter discontent over unemployment and perceived government corruption.

In the presidential election, Nujoma won a controversial third term with 77% of the vote. Swapo used its massive majority last year to stretch the constitutional limit of two terms and allow Nujoma to run again.

"Democracy is entrenched in a united and peaceful Namibia," Nujoma said after the final results were released by the country's Electoral Commission.

Swapo won 55 seats in the 72-seat parliament, followed by seven each for the Democrats and the Alliance, two for the United Democratic Front and one for the Monitor Action Group. About 878 000 Namibians were eligible to vote. — Reuter